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TORONTO metro



FAT-BOTTOMED COPS: BY (DAIRY) QUEEN

POLICE AND ARMED FORCES STRUGGLING TO FIND A FEW GOOD MEN WHO CAN ALSO PERFORM A FEW GOOD PUSHUPS **PAGE 12**

Look-a-likes end up in the wrong caskets

Barrie family mourns over and cremates wrong body after similar-looking person dies at same location **PAGE 8**

Vatican to go before UN on child abuse

Holy See will be forced to publicly defend treatment of children and handling of pedophile priests **PAGES 16 & 17**

Jack Ryan and the dark world of ... economics

Director Kenneth Branagh says Wall Street is a pretty good substitute for the Cold War in a spy movie **PAGE 25**



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Citizenship policy evokes our 'speak white' past: Study

Immigrant integration. Think-tank suggests Tories are stemming flow of new Canadians, reviving old 'conformity to anglophone norms'

Recent government policy changes have made Canadian citizenship more restrictive and are counterproductive to immigrant integration, says a new study by a Canadian think-tank.

"Overall, it seems the government intends to make it more difficult or even impossible for some potential new citizens to become Canadians, namely those who are deemed suspicious or less desirable for political, religious or economic reasons," said the study by the Institute for Research on Public Policy, released Thursday.

The impacts of these changes are evident in the decline in the number of Canadian citizenships granted over the last few years — from 176,572 in 2008 to 113,142 in 2012 — said the report by University of Ottawa sociology professor Elke Winter.

Furthermore, during the same period, the number of citizenship applications grew

from 242,400 to 317,440.

Among prospective new citizens, the report said, Muslims seem to be the cultural and religious group deemed most in need of cultural compliance, as reflected by the reference to honour killings and female genital mutilation in the new citizenship study guide and the requirement for new citizens to take the citizenship oath without their face covered.

The more restrictive process has caused a massive backlog and lengthened processing times. As of July 2013, it took 25 months to process routine citizenship applications and 35 months when applicants were asked to fill out a residence questionnaire to prove their physical presence in Canada.

All these changes have moved Canada from a model in which citizenship is viewed as one step within an ongoing integration process toward a model that depicts naturalization as a "prize" at the end of successful integration, said Winter.

"Within the first-prize approach, immigrants are tested on skills and achievements such as knowledge of French or English, familiarity with Canadian history, physical presence in the country and economic self-

Tory changes

Since coming into power in 2006, the Conservative government has issued a new citizenship guide that emphasizes Canadian history and the monarchy, launched a public campaign against citizenship fraud, introduced a more demanding citizenship test and tightened language requirements.

sufficiency," Winter said in an interview.

"Unfortunately, this approach is also more stratified by socio-economic background and, arguably, ethno-cultural origin than the original model."

Playing into the symbolic politics that emphasize Canada's British cultural roots is a reminder of the country's pre-multiculturalism days "characterized by conformity to anglophone norms and 'speak white' ideology," the study said.

Despite the new measures, Canada has remained a world leader in converting immigrants into citizens, as more than 75 per cent of permanent residents end up being granted citizenship.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



THE COMEBACK QUEEN

Canada's Justine Dufour-Lapointe celebrates her win in the women's freestyle World Cup moguls event on Wednesday in Wilmington, N.Y. The 19-year-old came back from a distant 15th in qualifying to overtake Americans Heidi Kloser and Hannah Kearney for gold. Montreal's Alex Bilodeau, the reigning Olympic champion, took the men's title. See story and more Olympic coverage, page 39.

MIKE GROLL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Show me the authority and I'll make time for you: Wynne on Ford

War of words.

Premier laughs off mayor's contention that byelection won by Holyday was behind refusal to meet

Mayor Rob Ford says it's possible Premier Kathleen Wynne is refusing to meet with him because he helped former councillor Doug Holyday win a summer provincial byelection as a Progressive Conservative.

Wynne says that is not true: She is a busy person, and she has chosen to spend her time meeting with Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly, the man to whom city council gave most of the mayor's traditional powers in the wake of Ford's November admission of crack cocaine use.

On Tuesday, Wynne swiftly rejected Ford's request for a one-on-one meeting related to the ice storm. She has dealt exclusively with Kelly since council's near-unanimous November votes.

Ford appeared late Tuesday on the Newstalk 1010 show hosted by Toronto Sun columnist Joe Warmington. Warmington, who frequently defends Ford, said Wynne's refusal to meet with him

Quoted

"Ford says the Preem's mad about his campaigning in Holyday's byelection. Nope. It's the crack, Rob."

Coun. Shelley Carroll, a Ford critic, on Twitter

"can't just be because of what happened last year — there's got to be some political and personal things that we don't know."

Ford said: "Maybe, I think, you know, the Wynne government's pretty upset with me getting involved in the byelection, getting Doug Holyday in there. Because I did work very hard for Doug to win Etobicoke-Lakeshore."

He urged Wynne to "move on from that."

Wynne chuckled when asked about Ford's suggestion of Holyday-related ill will at a Wednesday morning appearance at the LCBO on Queens Quay. She said she has no such grudge.

She meets with Kelly, she said, because "Toronto city council made a decision about the authority for leadership at city hall."

Asked why she doesn't simply meet with Ford anyway,



Premier Kathleen Wynne raises a glass of ice wine at the LCBO on Cooper and Queens Quay to promote Ontario Vineyards Produce Record Grape Harvest and support the industry growth on Wednesday. Wynne says she needs "to be strategic about the meetings" she takes. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Wynne said, "I don't have time to meet with everyone... I need to be strategic about the meetings I take."

Ford then issued a statement in which he said, "I would like to remind Premier Wynne that I remain the head

of Council and official representative of the City of Toronto." Speaking to reporters later in the day, Ford added, "All she's doing is letting the people of this great city down."

Provincial NDP Leader An-

drea Horwath said it should be "common courtesy" to meet with the mayor of the city, though she said she recognizes Toronto's council has made a call about who should be the government's decision-maker.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

City rejects student-housing proposal for Waverly



The Waverly Hotel near College and Spadina. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The city has rejected a plan to tear down the historic Hotel Waverly and Silver Dollar Room.

At a meeting Wednesday, Toronto and East York Community Council turned down the proposal by the Wynn Group to replace the 113-year-old hotel and attached tavern on Spadina

Avenue, just north of College Street, with a 22-storey mixed-use building that would include a private student residence.

The proposed height is more than four times the 16 metres allowed by zoning and the "proposal in its current form is not supportable," according to a city planning report that rec-

ommended the refusal.

The developer says he will appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board.

"It's our only avenue of aspiring to get what we want to get," said Paul Wynn, who came up with the idea to build privatized student housing near the U of T after his two daughters

had trouble finding accommodation near McGill University in Montreal.

The developer said a student residence would cost less to build than condos and, with multiple tenants in one suite, would bring in more rent than a unit in an apartment building. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No 'electronic footprint'

Mystery deepens over missing teacher

About \$3,500 was found last week in the desk of Jeffery Boucher, a 52-year-old Whitby teacher who went missing Monday morning.

The money was for a ski trip Boucher was organizing, said Rusty Hick, director of education for the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board. Administrators talked to Boucher about keeping

money in the school office instead, as is the school's policy, Hick said, and there is no ongoing investigation into the incident.

Durham police said in a press conference Wednesday afternoon that Boucher has not left any "electronic footprint"—credit card transactions, phone activity, Internet use—since he disappeared.

Police are continuing their search and still believe he may have gone jogging early Monday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Expected to save \$1M

Ornge cuts 25 jobs in shakeup

A dramatic restructuring at Ornge has eliminated 25 senior jobs as managers take a broom to the costly legacy of former boss Chris Mazza and his global ambitions for the air ambulance agency.

As well, eight positions were added and another 15 jobs were reclassified. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Parents suing for \$3.5M

Ont. wants daycare lawsuit tossed

The Ontario education ministry wants a Newmarket court to throw out a lawsuit it's facing over the death of two-year-old Eva Ravikovich at an illegal home daycare last July, arguing it's not responsible because the business was unlicensed.

The ministry that oversees child care in Ontario outlined its position in a



Ekaterina Evtropova, mother of Eva Ravikovich. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

notice of motion filed Monday, stating it "does not owe the plaintiff" — the dead toddler's family — a "duty of care." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 NEWS

Mansion on the block at less than cost

Mississauga. Home that cost almost \$7M to build expected to fetch just \$5.5M

The oversized real estate sign in front of "Saxony Manor" sums up this sprawling showcase in simple words: "The ultimate in living experience."

There's only one small problem — this audacious, award-winning, 18,000-square-foot mansion is in Mississauga. And that's made it a much tougher sell than expected for owner and builder Michal Cerny.

After dozens of showings, three years on the MLS, and one failed offer, Cerny is putting the seven-bedroom, nine-bathroom home — which was once listed at \$11 million, a record for the

Mississauga market — up for auction on Jan. 26.

It's expected to sell for about \$5.5 million, more than a million less than it cost to build. The limestone exterior and custom-made interior plaster finishes alone came in at almost \$1.5 million.

Cerny's disappointed, of course, but hardly devastated. For years now the house, which sits on half an acre of land over-

looking the Mississauga Golf & Country Club, has been a local talking point and massive model home, of sorts, for Cerny's boutique firm, Ambassador Fine Custom Homes Inc.

Cerny has signed contracts with three international buyers so far who've jetted over to tour the place and are now looking to put down roots — the bigger, the better — in Mississauga.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Michal Cerny, builder/owner, inside the home that's going on the auction block Jan. 26 after three years of failing to sell on the MLS system. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Groundbreaking science. Pothole-free roads are possible, engineer says

There is a man in Kingston who says he can build roads that defy aging.

Imagine roads free of potholes and cracks. That would lead to fewer repairs, fewer traffic jams and maybe, just maybe, a significant reduction in road rage.

It sounds like utopia and Simon Hesp sounds like a man given to hyperbole — a rogue in the industry, as a chemical engineer in a field that belongs to civil engineers.

But the Queen's University professor has the bona fides to back up his claims.

"We had potholes in Kingston the size of buses," Hesp says. "That will never happen again, because they are listening 100 per cent and are nice guys."

Hesp developed several tests that identify "garbage" asphalt. Kingston adopted those tests in 2009, and what

Quoted

"More than half the asphalt I've tested ... have engine oil residue ... that will crack in the first winter. After 10 years it will be rubble."

Simon Hesp, Queen's University

they get, essentially, is more pure asphalt, largely free of cheap additives and modifiers.

Kingston now considers itself the leading municipality in road science in the country.

"This is just the fifth winter with the new standards," says Mark Campbell, construction manager of the engineering department with the City of Kingston. "So it's early yet, but it's certainly standing up very well. No cracks at all."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Potholes like these could be a thing of the past, an engineer claims.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kenora, Ont.

Boy charged in sexting case

Provincial police say a 16-year-old Ontario boy has been charged in a sexting investigation.

Police say their probe began Sunday after sexually explicit photographs of a 17-year-old girl were found on an electronic device.

Police allege the 16-year-old Kenora youth distributed

a sexually explicit photo.

The boy is to appear in court in Kenora on Jan. 28 facing a charge of distribution of child pornography.

Police note that the creation and sending of nude photographs of anyone under the age of 18 is considered child pornography under the Criminal Code of Canada.

Sexting refers to the transmission of sexually related text or images from one mobile device to another.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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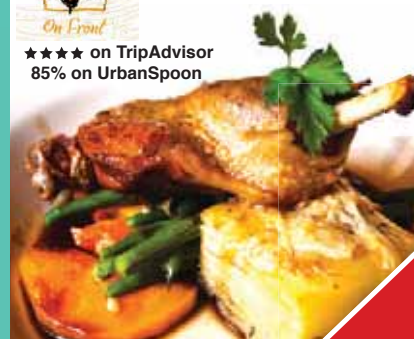
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Support. Oscar winner funds writing project

Because Oscar-winning actress Melissa Leo put her money where her mouth is, she's getting first crack at screenplays to be written by six female Canadian filmmakers in exchange for funding the project spearheaded by Toronto filmmaker Ingrid Veninger.

The six women chosen for the Femmes Lab were announced Wednesday. They include Veninger, Toronto actress-turned-filmmaker Anaïs Granofsky and Danishka Esterhazy, an award-winning Winnipeg director.

Veninger (Nurse. Fighter. Boy. Modra) came up with the idea in November for the six-month-long Femmes Lab to en-

courage more women to write screenplays.

"I cannot imagine anybody better than Melissa Leo to sponsor and support this lab," said Veninger.

To participate, the writers had to be Canadian, female, have been writer or director on at least one completed film and "be ravenous to write a feature screenplay and commit to this six-month exercise."

"What makes this special is Melissa has the first look at the six scripts," Veninger said. "Who knows where this can go from there? Maybe she'll want to be part of them or connect them with other people."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Ingrid Veninger's Femmes Lab, from left, Sophie Deraspe, Danishka Esterhazy, Michelle Latimer, Ingrid Veninger, Mars Horodyski and Anaïs Granofsky. CONTRIBUTED

American invasion

Nordstrom to replace Sears at Eaton Centre

The Toronto Eaton Centre will hang onto its name but welcome a new anchor in just over two years: U.S. retailer Nordstrom.

Anticipated for months since Sears Canada said it was pulling out, the move marks an aggressive

expansion by U.S. retailers into the lucrative Canadian marketplace in recent years, including Marshall's, J.Crew, Saks—which was taken over by Hudson's Bay—and discount chain Target.

A retro-fit of the approximately 213,000 square-foot, three-level store is set to begin in March with the opening slated for fall 2016, the same time it is scheduled to open at Yorkdale Shopping Centre.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Lee and Carol Ballantyne at their 43rd anniversary dinner. FROM LEE BALLANTYNE'S FACEBOOK PAGE

Widower touched by viral reaction to gesture

Online. Private note to young couple dining had one million views around the world

Widower Lee Ballantyne of Barrie, Ont. is more than a little dazed by the viral online reaction to a note he wrote on a napkin to a young couple in a local restaurant.

He's also pleased in a way that's very hard to describe.

Ballantyne was dining alone on Jan. 7, grieving the death of Carol, his wife of 43 years, from lung cancer on Dec. 30. Looking across the restaurant at the

young couple reminded Ballantyne of happier times.

On the napkin he wrote: "You don't know me but my beautiful wife of 43 years died last week. Tonight I dined alone for the first time. You remind me of us many years ago. Please allow me to buy your dinner. Enjoy! It will put a smile on Carol's face and make me happy ... for now. Happy New Year! Lee B. Pay it forward."

Within a week, his private note to the young couple had an estimated one million views around the world.

It went viral after a waiter posted the napkin note on Reddit, a website of user-generated links. It touched British

readers of the Daily Mail. It also moved strangers in Australia. Stories were accompanied by Facebook photos of Lee and Carol.

At the time he wrote the note, the newspaper columnist was planning on taking a break from writing humour for a while.

The viral response to the note pushed Ballantyne to write about it in his column for the Barrie Advance.

"I'm astonished by the reaction," Ballantyne said Wednesday. "At the end of the day, what makes me feel good about it is that thousands of people got to see my wife and see what a wonderful person she is."

Quoted

"At the end of the day, what makes me feel good about it is that thousands of people got to see my wife and see what a wonderful person she is."

Lee Ballantyne

Ballantyne said he sometimes mentioned Carol in his column, which is a light, humorous look on life.

"She would always reprimand me but she had a smile on her face. I'm sure she's smiling now." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Next-generation ship a cleaner ride

Algoma Central Corporation unveils its new environmentally and technologically advanced vessel, the Algoma Equinox, to the media on Wednesday at the Toronto Port Authority. The ship and seven sister vessels that will arrive through 2014 and 2015 are designed to meet new air-emission standards being phased in over the next 10 years. The inset shows the bridge of the vessel with its state-of-the-art navigation system. COURTESY ROY TIMM

Wrong body sent to Barrie family

Confusion. Woman's remains were mixed up with an American's after both died in St. Maarten

After two strikingly similar women died in St. Maarten in late November, a grim mix-up caused a Barrie family to unknowingly mourn — and then cremate — the wrong body.

The family of Kathleen Hogwell didn't realize that the beloved Barrie matriarch was not in the casket during her funeral last December. Hogwell, 82, died of natural causes while vacationing in St. Maarten.

Meanwhile, an American family gathered under similar circumstances to remember

Quoted

"When we finally opened up the casket at the wake, that's when we discovered it wasn't my mom. It was shocking."

Ken Porkka, Margaret Porkka's son

Margaret Porkka, also 82, who died in St. Maarten on Nov. 29.

When the casket was hinged open during the wake, the New Jersey family was shocked to see a necklace with the letter "K" dangling around the occupant's neck. After further inspection, Porkka's children slipped away from the service and, in hushed voices, came to the same conclusion: There was

a stranger in the casket.

"This has been a nightmare," Ken Porkka, the woman's son, said from his New Jersey home.

Hogwell's family held a service on Dec. 10, never realizing they had Porkka's body, police said.

The apparent body swap has launched a police investigation in Canada and the U.S.

Officials in Canada are now running DNA tests on body fluids found in a cadaver transportation box to confirm that the ashes in Barrie truly belong to the American woman. Results are expected by the end of January, but officials are confident in the results.

Calls to Hogwell's family in Barrie went unanswered Wednesday. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberal generosity has Opposition crying foul

The Opposition accused Ontario's Liberal government of trying to buy votes Wednesday after Premier Kathleen Wynne called two provincial byelections in Niagara Falls and Thornhill.

In the past month, the Liberals announced a \$75-million package for the Niagara-based wine industry and \$26 million for a new hospital in Niagara Falls, both in an effort to hang onto the riding, said Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak.

"Oh, I think people see through this old school, cynical politics where all of a sudden there's all kinds of money for things that weren't even on the Liberals' radar screen," said Hudak. "But I'm going to talk about jobs, about my million-jobs plan to put people into good, well-paying jobs."

Wynne announced the byelections will be held Feb. 13, less than a week before the

A sign of things to come

The outcomes of the two byelections will not affect the minority status of the Liberal government, but they will help determine who has momentum for a widely expected spring election.

legislature resumes sitting, to fill seats vacated by the retirements of Liberal Kim Craitor and PC Peter Shurman.

The New Democrats said they weren't surprised to see the Liberals spending government money in advance of the byelection call.

"Whether it's health care, whether it's jobs, whether it's making ends meet, I think the people of Niagara Falls know that this byelection is going to be about a number of different issues," said NDP Leader Andrea Horwath.

Wynne said the new Niagara hospital, announced Monday, and the assistance for the wine industry were "in the works for a long time" and had nothing to do with the byelections. The wine sector has huge potential for growth, and providing government money is part of the Liberals' economic strategy, she added.

City Coun. Joyce Morocco will carry the Liberal banner in Niagara Falls, while the party nominated Coun. Sandra Yeung Racco in Thornhill.

The Tories have nominated regional councillor and former Niagara Falls MPP Bart Maves as their candidate and will pick their candidate for Thornhill Thursday night. The NDP will nominate their candidates in both ridings this weekend.

Teresa Pun is the Green candidate in Thornhill. The Green candidate in Niagara Falls will be nominated Sunday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police board

Outsourcing of parking enforcement under consideration

The Toronto Police Services Board is asking Chief Bill Blair to look at the idea of outsourcing parking enforcement — one of the city's most valuable revenue streams.

An agenda item for Thursday's meeting asks Blair to return in March with a report on the feasibility and financial implications of such a shift, along with a question about transferring exterior court security to the city.

The item follows a motion made at the city's budget com-

Revenue

Enforcement of parking, by police and the city, is one of the city's largest sources of non-property-tax revenue. After unpaid fines, the city derives \$80 million from parking fines annually, of which 75 per cent goes into the city's coffers while the rest funds the Toronto Parking Authority.

mittee in December.

Chair Alok Mukherjee said the board's role is to consider the public safety function of the enforcement — something that boils down to forcing people to follow the rules by setting out paid fines, he said.

Raising money for the city, Mukherjee said, is "strictly city business."

The board has not discussed the feasibility of outsourcing enforcement before and would be open to such a conversation with the city, Mukherjee said.

The board members may be interested in discussing the idea among themselves, he said, following 2013 budget talks that considered privatizing, outsourcing or turning some police functions over to lower-paid civilians to save costs.

The board will provide an update to the city after it receives Blair's report, Mukherjee said.

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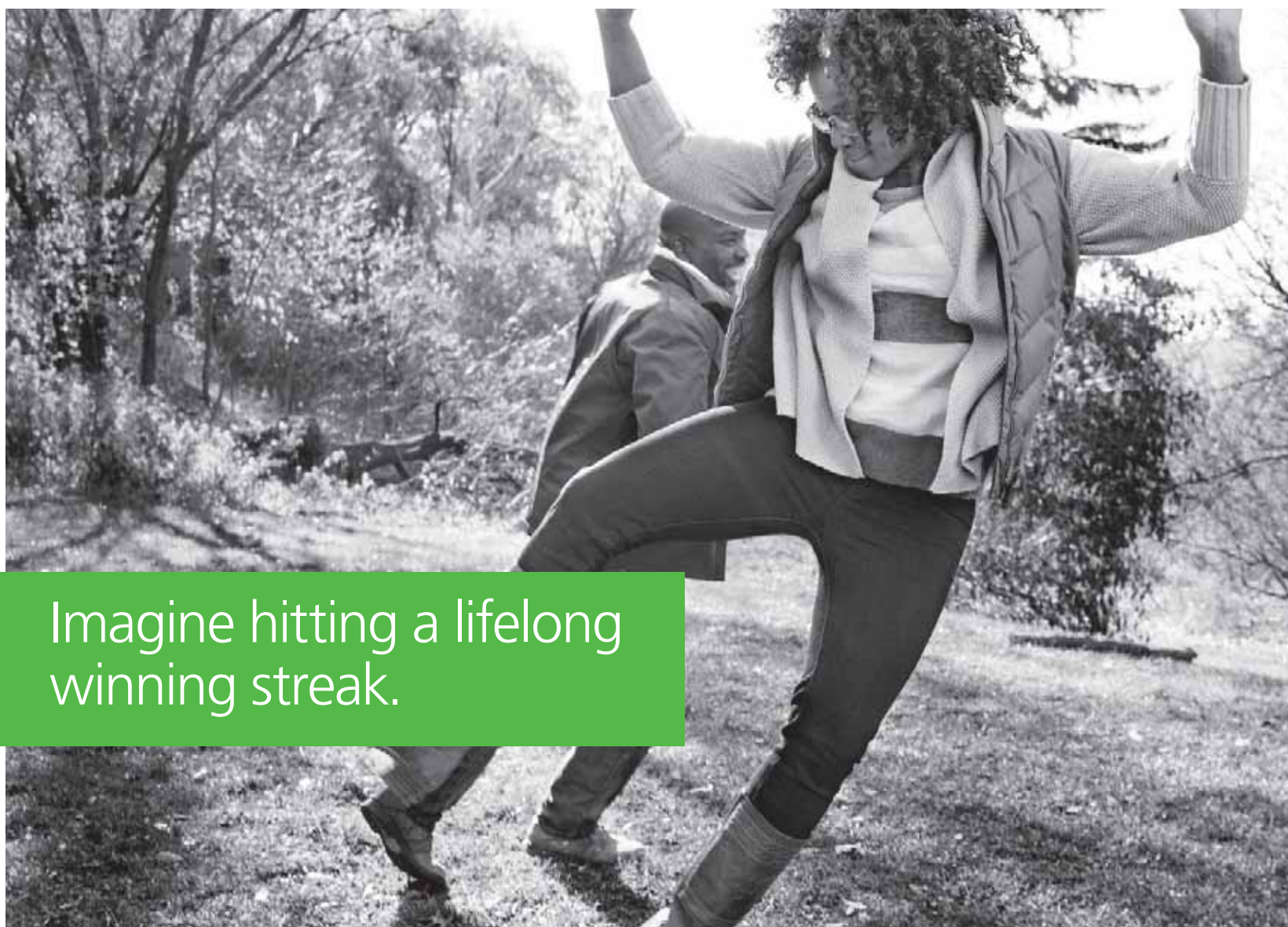
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Hempology 101. Club riles UBC student admin with weed-vapourizer party

Ain't no party like a UBC vapour party — because that's the kind of party that can get you expelled.

Student administrators at the University of British Columbia are investigating the campus's Hempology 101 club for holding an indoor 4:20 meeting last week enticing people to "stay dry and get high" in the Student Union Building (SUB).

Club treasurer Corbin Manson did not respond to repeated interview requests from Metro, but after he spoke to the UBC student newspaper, the club posted a statement on its website calling the party "wildly successful."

"I want to set the record straight: There is no conclusive evidence that Hempology 101 has broken any



A staffer reaches for a vapourizer Wednesday at B.C. Marijuana Party headquarters in Vancouver.

KATE WEBB/METRO

laws," wrote one of the executives (it is unclear which one).

The student paper, The Ubssey, reported that 25 people attended the meeting and a towel was placed under the door to keep the vapour in. KATE WEBB/METRO IN VANCOUVER

Ratapooey. Urban rodents carry diarrhea-causing bacteria: Study

Just when you thought the reputation of urban rats couldn't sink any lower, new research has proven the critters carry bacteria that causes diarrhea in humans.

B.C. scientists found *Clostridium difficile* in the poop of 13 per cent of *Rattus rattus* and *Rattus norvegicus* in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, according to research published in the *Journal of Applied and Environmental Microbiology* in December.

C. difficile causes diarrhea and intestinal disease in people, especially children and pets. While the study doesn't

show whether rats can actually transmit the bacteria to people or other animals, it's the first to investigate whether the pests carry more than just the plague.

The research is part of the Vancouver Rat Project, the first study in Canada to research urban rat populations to see if they pose a health risk.

It involves samples from more than 700 wild rats from one of Canada's poorest neighbourhoods, a veritable hotbed of the creatures due to its old buildings and proximity to the port.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO IN VANCOUVER



Justices waver on protest-free zone rules at abortion clinics

Alan Hoyle, of Lincolnton, N.C., stands outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday. The court heard arguments on the regulation of protests at abortion clinics and seemed likely to strike down a Massachusetts law setting a 10-metre protest-free zone outside clinics. Liberal and conservative justices alike expressed misgivings about the law during arguments at the high court. They questioned the size of the zone and whether the state could find less restrictive ways of ensuring patient access and safety. EVAN VUCCI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google showing illegal web ads

'Google must correct this.' Canada's privacy commissioner is also pushing the company to make it easier for consumers to be heard

Google has been caught afoul of the law by displaying web ads linked to a person's health

history, according to Canada's interim privacy commissioner Chantal Bernier.

An investigation by Bernier's office backed up a man's complaints that he was seeing so-called behavioural advertisements based on his web browsing history. After searching for information about devices to treat sleep apnea, he began to see ads for those devices as he browsed the web.

While behavioural adver-

tising is not illegal, Canada's privacy law does not allow consumers to be targeted based on "sensitive personal information," including their health.

Google's privacy policy outlines displaying advertisements based on race, religion, sexual orientation or health. But the Mountain View, Calif.-based company acknowledged that some advertisers using its advertising platform were not following the policy.

Google has pledged to upgrade the system that reviews ads for compliance, increase the monitoring of ads and provide more information to advertisers and staff about the rules.

"The monitoring system was not tight enough, not robust enough to ensure compliance, it wasn't extensive enough to deal with the volume of ads," said Bernier in an interview.

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Your country needs you ... to lose some weight

Best and brightest, but not always lightest.

Police units and armies struggle to find recruits who are fighting fit



ELISABETH BRAW

Metro World News in London, U.K.

Recently Mike Harper ran into the wife of a police officer friend on a Dallas street.

"She told me she was worried about his safety because his colleagues are overweight," he recalls.

The wife had good reason to be concerned. Even though American police officers should be fitter than average, a comprehensive study reports that they're less fit than half of the population.

"They have to be able to crawl and run," notes Harper, a fitness educator in charge of police and military programs at the Cooper Institute in Dallas.

"These are not tasks that you do every day, but it's critical that you're able to do them. It's like using a firearm. You don't need it every day, but when you do need it, it's essential that you know how."

And police officers are not the only ones with a weight problem. According to Lt.-Gen. Mark Hertling, no less than 75 per cent of civilians wanting to join the U.S. Army are ineligible due to being overweight.

And "of the 25 per cent that could join, what we found was 65 per cent could

not pass the (physical training) test on the first day," he said in a speech.

"Young people joining our service could not run, jump, tumble or roll. These are the kind of things you would expect soldiers to do if you're in combat."

According to the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics, between 1959 and 2008 the percentage of men who were ineligible for military service because of their weight doubled, while the percentage of ineligible women tripled.

Even though Hollywood portrays army physical training as extremely gruelling, the fitness test for new soldiers is surprisingly low.

"Fifty push-ups, 40 sit-ups and a 1.5-mile run in less than 10 minutes," notes Stew Smith, a former Navy SEAL who now runs a fitness company for soldiers and officers.

Now armed forces and law-enforcement agencies are getting serious about fitness, enlisting companies like Smith's and the Cooper Institute to train their staff. Some, like the British Army, have even developed apps to help applicants get fit. In fact, many former elite soldiers have discovered a business niche in fitness companies.

However, fitness apps won't really make a difference, observes Smith.

"The police and military do their best with what society brings them, but this is a society-wide problem. A financially struggling population will keep eating crappy, inexpensive food."



Fat chance: While experts contend that police officers should be in prime physical state, in truth they have the same weight problem as the rest of the population. GETTY IMAGES



Stew squat: Former Navy SEAL turned fitness instructor Stew Smith puts police officers through a squatting exercise. COURTESY STEW SMITH

Russia

Rotund get rejected

In recent years, Russia's much-maligned police force has been trying to revamp its image, including tackling obesity among officers.

"The fat and paunchy will

not get through," former interior minister Rashid Nurgaliyev said in 2011.

The force was literally slimmed down by 20 per cent. Police are now obliged to pass physical tests, with top performers getting a bonus salary. **EVGENIY MORUZ/METRO WORLD NEWS IN MOSCOW**

Canadian Forces work with what they've got

It's hard enough to attract recruits to the Canadian military or police forces without worrying about fitness.

An internal Defence Department audit released last year noted that "fitness and education levels of recruits in the last five years have been slightly lower than in the past," when compounded with other factors such as mobility, changing career expectations and an aging workforce.

Recent reports show that American police and armed forces are struggling to find new recruits who satisfy the weight restriction.

It's slowly becoming the case in Canada too. The Canadian Forces have been adapting their application process to accommodate its changing applicant pool.

In 2006, the military eliminated the Canadian Forces Applicant Physical Fitness Test as a pre-enrolment

True calibre

"I think the challenge is not necessarily recruiting the numbers. I think the challenge is recruiting the quality of individual that the Canadian Armed Forces is looking for."

Christian Leuprecht, Royal Military College and Queen's University professor

screening process, with some exceptions.

Instead of a physical test right off the bat, the evaluation is done once they've been

admitted to basic training. The three per cent that fail are not disqualified — rather, they are given the option to join the 90-day Warrior Fit-

ness Training Program.

Recruits who get in shape within the 90 days are returned to basic training.

But the changes don't necessarily mean the Canadian Forces are lowering their standards to bring in more recruits, according to Christian Leuprecht, a Royal Military College and Queen's University professor who has spent years studying military demographics and recruitment.

"I think it's important to

realize — just like the way companies can't expect the people who wander through the front door to have all the skills that a company might need and that a company invests in training — the Armed Forces look at the potential that the candidates bring rather than necessarily candidates that already have all the physical attributes that the organization is looking for," he said.

PHOEBE HO/FOR METRO IN TORONTO

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Canadian who joined militants killed in Syria

Damian Clairmont.

22-year-old Calgary man is believed to have converted to Islam and joined recognized terrorist group



JEREMY NOLAÏS
Metro in Calgary

A Calgary high school dropout has been killed by soldiers with the Free Syrian Army while fighting for a recognized terrorist group, according to a friend's online post.

Damian Clairmont, 22, born in Nova Scotia, is believed to have converted to Islam,



Damian Clairmont FACEBOOK

joined a force called Jabhat al-Nusra and departed for Syria in late 2012 to join rebel efforts to overthrow the government of President Bashar al-Assad.

"My bro ... Abu Talba al-Canadi executed by FSA!" wrote Abu Turan al-Muhaljr on Twitter, before posting a photo of Clairmont, who was known

by multiple names.

Al-Muhaljr later identified the man in the photo as Clairmont and added that he "was killed while defending himself and his brothers from the FSA onslaught in Aleppo."

But Canadian Foreign Affairs officials offered no specifics on Clairmont's fate amid inquiries made Wednesday.

"We are aware of reports that Canadians have been killed in Syria," said spokesperson Jean-Bruno Villeneuve in an emailed response. "We are following the situation closely."

An unnamed Canadian security source did confirm Clairmont's death to Torstar News Service, but did not provide specifics on the circumstances.

WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Police: Danish tourist gang-raped in India

A policeman stands outside the police station which is investigating the gang-rape of a Danish tourist in New Delhi, India, Wednesday. The 51-year-old tourist was allegedly raped near a popular shopping area in New Delhi after she stopped to ask for directions, police said Wednesday, the latest case to focus attention on the scourge of violence against women in India. The woman managed to reach her hotel in Paharganj area Tuesday evening and the owner called police. TSERING TOPGAL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Usage-based insurance in Canada? What the Beep!



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For the Queen. Chocolate castle, enamelled beetles among unusual gifts

Queen Elizabeth II received dozens of traditional gifts last year — but she also got some unusual items.

The High Commissioner for Bangladesh gave the Queen four enamelled Scarab beetles, and Sri Lanka's president chose a portrait of the monarch burned onto a tree trunk. The maker of Mars Bars gave her a chocolate version of Windsor Castle.

Some of the more lavish items included a family photograph in a gold frame set on a jeweled ostrich egg and a five-strand pearl neck-

With love, from Canada

- The Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan gave Queen Elizabeth a diamond and tourmaline brooch last year.
- A Canadian artist presented Princess Anne an art print of the Queen's daughter riding a moose.

lace, given by the president of the United Arab Emirates.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York

Kittens break into max security jail

A litter of four kittens has found a cosy home in the least cosy of places — the basement of the maximum-security Great Meadow prison in Fort Ann in

upstate New York.

The family of feral felines has been cared for by inmates and prison staff. Head electrician Bruce Porter arrives at work early so he can tend to the cats, which live in a large cage built by an inmate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sharing food makes the heart grow fonder, at least in chimps



Two chimpanzees share a piece of watermelon at Taronga Zoo in Sydney, Australia. RICK STEVENS-TARONGA ZOO/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Love hormone. Study found both the giver and receiver of food had higher levels of oxytocin, indicating sharing makes both parties feel good

A study published Wednesday appears to confirm that friendships are forged at mealtimes, at least for our closest living relatives.

Scientists from Germany, Switzerland, Britain and the

Quoted

"We think food sharing can help spark new friendships, whereas grooming is more for confirmation of existing relationships."

Roman Wittig, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany

United States have found that chimpanzees who share their food have higher levels of oxytocin, known as the love hormone, than those who don't.

Oxytocin has previously been linked to bonding between mothers and their breastfeeding babies, both in primates and humans.

Roman Wittig of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, said chimpanzees had more than twice the level of oxytocin after sharing food than after mutual grooming — another important bonding behaviour in primates.

Julia Lehmann, an evolutionary anthropologist, said the results appear to support the idea that food sharing can extend social benefits normally found in animals who are related to each other to those dining partners who aren't related. In other words, the way to a chimp's heart is through its stomach.

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President Francois Hollande's companion, Valerie Trierweiler, poses for a photographer in the gardens of the Elysee Palace in Paris in May.

THOMAS SAMSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

No love for France's 1st lady

France's president is reported to be sneaking around on a motorcycle to have a secret affair with an actress. Who takes the brunt of the heat? In a very French twist, it's increasingly looking like his jilted first lady, who has been hospitalized since she found out.

The question on many French lips this week is not, "How could Francois Hollande have done such a thing?" but rather, "Do we really need a

first lady?"

That's in part a reflection of a French willingness to forgive infidelity by men in public office, regardless of the damage it causes to their women.

And it's in part because the French have never fully embraced Valerie Trierweiler, a journalist who has been living with Hollande since he split with the mother of his four children in 2007.

Seen as cold and distant,

Trierweiler has followed Hollande on international visits and played the role of first lady, but unlike her predecessor Carla Bruni has failed to capture the hearts of the French public.

Trierweiler and Hollande are not married, and his reported affair is shining a new spotlight on the nearly \$27,000 in taxpayer money spent each month on the first lady's staff.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Pope Francis waves from his Popemobile as he arrives for his weekly general audience

UN to grill history of

Public showdown. Holy See forced to defend treatment of children in front of independent experts on Thursday

of the Child. Among other things, the treaty calls for signatories to take all appropriate measures to protect children from harm and to put children's interests above all else.

The Holy See ratified the convention in 1990 and submitted a first implementation report in 1994. But it didn't provide progress reports for nearly a decade, and only submitted one in 2012 after coming under criticism following the 2010 explosion of child sex abuse cases in Europe and beyond.

Victims groups and human rights organizations teamed up to press the UN committee to challenge the Holy See on its abuse record, providing written testimony from victims and evidence outlining the global scale of the problem. Their reports cite case

The Vatican is gearing up for a bruising showdown over the global priest sex abuse scandal, forced for the first time to defend itself at length and in public against allegations it enabled the rape of thousands of children by protecting pedophile priests and its own reputation at the expense of victims.

The Holy See on Thursday will be grilled by a UN committee in Geneva on its implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights

New study. Bird's-eye view shows high flyers aren't just winging it in flying V

The next time you see birds flying in a V, consider this: A new study says they choreograph the flapping of their wings with exquisite precision to help them fly.

That's what scientists concluded after tracking a group of large, black birds — each equipped with a tiny GPS device — that had been trained to follow an ultralight

aircraft. One expert in animal flight said just gathering the data, which included every wing flap, was a remarkable accomplishment.

Scientists have long theorized that many birds like these rare northern bald ibises adopt a V formation for aerodynamic reasons.

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in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, Wednesday. ANDREW MEDICHINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vatican on sex abuse

Independent assessment

The UN committee, composed of independent experts, will issue its final observations and recommendations on Feb. 5.

studies in Mexico and Britain, grand jury investigations in the U.S., and government fact-finding inquiries from Canada to Ireland to Australia that detail how the Vatican's policies, its culture of secrecy and fear of scandal contributed to the problem.

Their submissions reference Vatican documents that show its officials knew about a notorious Mexican molester decades before taking action. They cite correspondence from a Vatican cardinal praising a French bishop's

decision to protect his abusive priest, and another Vatican directive to Irish bishops to strike any mandatory reporting of abusers to police from their policies. The submissions even quote the former Vatican No. 2 as saying bishops shouldn't be expected to turn their priests in.

"For too many years, survivors were the only ones speaking out about this and bearing the brunt of a lot of criticism," said Pam Spees, an attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights, which provided a key report to the committee. "And so this is a very important moment for many, many people who are here in Geneva and around the world who will be watching as the Holy See is called for the first time ever to actually answer questions."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Northern bald ibises (*Geronticus eremita*) fly in formation in this undated photo. A study released Wednesday says the birds choreograph the flapping of their wings, getting a boost from an updraft of air in the wake of the flapping wings by flying behind the first bird and off to the side. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. surveillance program

Obama unlikely to spark big changes

President Barack Obama's blueprint for overhauling the government's sweeping surveillance program is just the starting point. The reality is few changes could happen quickly without unlikely agreements from a divided Congress and federal judges.

The most contentious debate probably will be over the

future of the National Security Agency's bulk collection of telephone records from millions of Americans. In his highly anticipated speech on Friday, Obama is expected to back the idea of changing the program. But he will leave the specifics to Congress, according to U.S. officials.

That puts key decisions in the hands of lawmakers who are at odds over everything from continuing the collections to who should house the data. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tax cheat hotline

Tories offer cash reward to snitches

The lines are now open to snitch on tax cheats.

The federal Conservatives launched the hotline Wednesday, saying they'll also reward informants who provide information that leads to a big bust.

Informants who provide information on major international tax evasion of more

than \$100,000 could get between five and 15 per cent of the money that's recovered, excluding interest and penalties, said Revenue Minister Kerry-Lynne Findlay.

"This will be a critical tool for recovering taxes that would otherwise be lost to tax cheats," she said.

Informants won't get anything if they've been convicted for being part of the tax-dodge scheme, she added.

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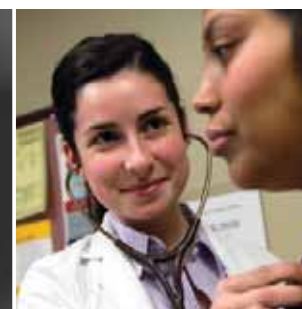
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A security worker passes by old books during the opening ceremony of Gazi Husrev-bey library in Sarajevo, Bosnia, Wednesday. AMEL EMRIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Historical library opens in Sarajevo

Permanent home. Qatar funds library for ancient books and manuscripts saved by residents during the Bosnian war

On Wednesday, thanks to a \$9 million donation from Qatar, Bosnia's president and a Qatar minister opened a new library in the heart of the Ottoman-era Old Town section of Sarajevo to house the biggest collection of oriental books and manuscripts in Southeast Europe. The oldest is a handwritten Islamic

encyclopedia that was written in Arabic in 1105.

The Gazi Husrev-bey Library is located on the site of a famous mosque and Islamic school of the same name that was opened in 1531. The books and manuscripts were kept there from 1537-1863, then moved to another building.

During Bosnia's 1992-95 war, Serb artillery pounded the city for years, often targeting only cultural sites.

About three million books went up in flames, along with hundreds of original documents from the Ottoman Empire and the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. The texts from the smaller Gazi

Husrev-bey's Library were saved in time by residents who moved the manuscripts from basement to basement.

Qatar's Islamic affairs minister, Ghaith bin Muhammad Al Kuwari, called the library a "temple of knowledge and culture" that will be open to all people, regardless of their nationality and religion.

He explained that Qatar regards the Balkans as a strategically important region because of the different religions that have lived together here for centuries. Qatar also supports the efforts of the Balkan Muslims to serve Islam in a moderate way.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sea piracy. Global attacks fall to a six-year low

World sea piracy fell for a third straight year in 2013, as Somali pirates were curbed by international naval patrols and improved ship vigilance, an international maritime watchdog said Wednesday.

The International Maritime Bureau said global pirate attacks fell to a six-year low of 264, down from 297 in 2012 and 439 in 2011. Pirate attacks have declined since hitting a peak in 2010 with 445 attacks.

A total of 12 vessels were hijacked, with more than 300 crew members taken hostage and one killed during 2013, according to data compiled

Problem areas

The IMB said West African piracy took a turn for the worse and accounted for 19 per cent of global attacks last year.

by the London-based bureau's piracy reporting centre in Malaysia.

Somali pirates have been deterred by international navies, stronger vessels, the use of private armed security teams and the stabilizing influence of Somalia's central government, the bureau said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

London

Urn of Sigmund Freud damaged in attempted robbery

British police are hunting burglars who tried to steal the ashes of psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud from a London crematorium.

The Metropolitan Police force said Wednesday that a 2,300-year-old Greek urn containing the remains of Freud and his wife, Martha, was severely damaged in a break-in at Golders Green Crematorium on Dec. 31 or Jan. 1.

Freud died in London in September 1939 at the age of 83.

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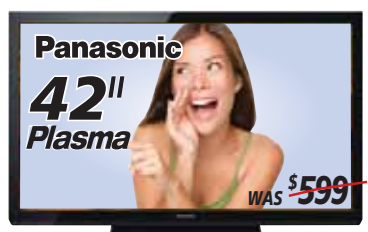
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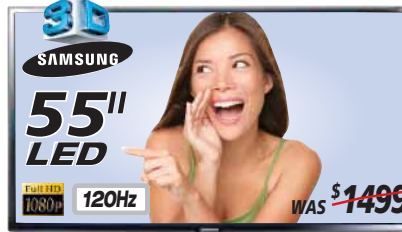
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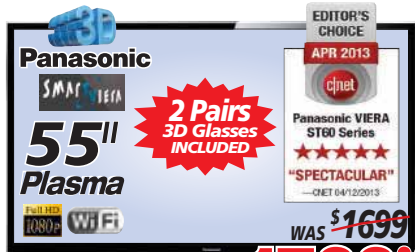
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Has Colorado gone to pot?

High prices a buzzkill.
While legal marijuana dispensaries bring in the green, issues have blunted enthusiasm



KIERON MONKS
Metro World News

There has been a party atmosphere around Colorado's marijuana dispensaries since recreational sales became legal at the turn of the year.

"People have been queuing for four to five hours," says Ryan West, an employee at a Denver dispensary. "Everyone is so excited and proud to be in the first state to legalize, and there is so much room to grow."

West is a product of that growth, hired on Jan. 1 to cope with a boom that saw sales of more than \$5 million inside the first week. Fewer than 200 dispensaries are licensed to sell the drug for recreational use and that number is set to rise, while related industries such as "weed tourism" are also grow-

ing rapidly.

But there have been unintended consequences, with prices more than doubling in some cases to more than \$400 US an ounce (28 grams). This is far higher than the rates of illegal dealers, allowing them to compete, despite the claims of marijuana advocates that a legal industry would replace the black market.

Illegal dealers are also benefitting from police confusion over new laws that have seen an 80 per cent drop in prosecutions since 2012, including for distribution. "Law enforcement feels like they don't know which way to turn," Tom Raynes, executive director of the Colorado District Attorneys' Council, told the Denver Post.

Campaigners supporting legalization believe these issues are temporary glitches.

"There has been historic demand at a historic moment, but as the number of licenses grow the demand and price will settle," Taylor West, deputy director of the National Cannabis Industry Association, told Metro.

"At that point the underground market will become obsolete."



Sam Walsh, left, a budtender, and facility manager David Martinez set up marijuana products as the 3D Denver's Discrete Dispensary prepares to open for retail sales on Jan. 1 in Denver, Colo. Legalization of recreational marijuana sales in the state went into effect at 8 a.m. on New Year's Day. THEO STROOMER/GETTY IMAGES

Apple to refund \$32M in app purchases made by kids

Apple will refund at least \$32.5 million US to consumers to settle a federal case involving purchases that kids made without their parents' permission while playing on mobile apps, the government announced Wednesday.

The Federal Trade Commission said Apple will make full refunds for any such in-app purchases made by kids using mobile phones and other devices, and incurring charges by accident or without par-

ents' permission.

Apple will have to change its billing practices to make it more obvious that an actual purchase is taking place during the course of the game or app.

The commission said it had received tens of thousands of complaints about unauthorized charges.

Edith Ramirez, the agency's head, said the settlement involves mobile apps and charges racked up when

kids bought things such as virtual currency or dragon food. In some cases, Ramirez said, charges ran into the hundreds and even thousands of dollars.

One parent told the FTC that her daughter had spent \$2,600 US in Tap Pet Hotel, a game in which kids can build their own pet hotel. The game is free to download and play but involves in-app purchases where kids buy treats and coins for their pets.

Other consumers reported

unauthorized purchases by children totalling more than \$500 in the apps Dragon Story and Tiny Zoo Friends.

"You cannot charge consumers for purchases they did not authorize," Ramirez said.

The \$32.5 million US payout is a minimum. As part of the settlement, Apple must pay full refunds to consumers for kids' unauthorized purchases, so that figure could climb.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clicks added up

According to the Federal Trade Commission complaint, when parents entered their password while a child played a game, Apple did not make it clear that they unwittingly may be buying something in the game the child had clicked on, such as a chest of gems or treats for a virtual pet.

Market Minute

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THE EH-LIST: THE BEST OF CANADA

It's time to thank everyone you know, strike up the band (mid-sentence) and put one foot in front of the other, before a smiling woman in heels points out you're walking in the wrong direction.

Yes, it's awards season. I'd have described it better, but I didn't think I'd be called upon for this honour so I didn't prepare anything.

The Golden Globes have been handed out, the Oscar nominations were announced today, and The Canadian Screen Awards are back one year after they first combined the Genies and the Geminis into the coveted Geminis.

The CSAs seemed to meet our country's high standards, which is why I was excited to have full, exclusive access to this year's show, which was pre-recorded yesterday and remains distinctly Canadian despite some faint U.S. echoes:

Red carpet. Oh, my. The recurring themes this year were boots and Roots! And you've never seen such an array of plaid. I



HE SAYS

John Mazerolle

metronews.ca

don't want to give away who everyone was wearing, but let's just say it was a very good year for French designer Jacques Cousteau.

In memoriam. A video montage of all the great entertainers we lost in 2013 is intercut with smug Canucks saying, "They were Canadian, y'know" at every opportunity.

Orchestra pit. By law, 40 per cent of the orchestra's play-off music was CanCon. Also by law, 40 per cent of that was New Orleans is Sinking.

Lifetime achievement award. The City of Toronto was honoured for its recurring, life-long film portrayal of Chicago.

Big Winners. I'm sworn to secrecy or the Trailer Park Boys will mess me up, but here are the top contenders:

Gravity Canada: Same as the American version, except Perfect Human and Everyastronaut Chris Hadfield plays the George Clooney role, meaning nobody dies, none of the space stations are destroyed, and he puts the satellites back together

while holding a video town hall with schoolchildren in Sarnia.

Canadian Hustle: One hundred and thirty eight minutes of Mike Duffy coverage, captured in the tagline, "If you thought cameras weren't allowed in the Canadian Senate, think again."

Blue is the Coldest Colour: Set during February in Edmonton, the movie's lesbian love scenes aren't much to look at because they happen under 27 layers of blankets.

Her, eh?: A lonely writer falls in love with his BlackBerry. She loses most of her self-worth and he moves on to his new girlfriend Siri after a couple of weeks.

Conrad Black: Protracted Constitutional to Freedom: This stirring story brought to you with funding from Conrad Black deals with one of Canada's greatest heros as he struggles valiantly against oppression, including being thrown in jail and even stripped of his nationality. Each ticket-holder is given a dictionary and thesaurus upon entrance.

That's my sneak peek, Canada! I have very little time left but I'd just like to thank —

(New Orleans is Sinking.)

Aw, nuts. Sorry.

ZOOM

Sending up some protection



CHUNG SUNG-JUN/GETTY IMAGES

Anti-NK balloons fly over border

North Korean defectors, including former soldiers, release prophylactic-shaped balloons due to fly to the North, carrying leaflets condemning North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

Letters on the balloons at the rally near the demilitarized zone between the two Koreas read: "End the world's worst three-generation dictatorship." **METRO**

By the numbers

500,000

Anti-North Korea pamphlets.

1,500

USB flash drives loaded with the Korean-language version of the online encyclopedia Wikipedia.

1,000

United States one dollar bills and DVDs detailing human rights abuses in the North.

Activist's viewpoint

"There is clearly enormous hunger for outside information in North Korea. USB keys are one of the most powerful tools, because they're small, can be hidden and shared easily, and carry massive amounts of data."

Thor Halvorssen, president of the U.S.-based Human Rights Foundation



Sending a signal: Around 50 tiny transistor radios were also included in the floating packages headed to North Korea.

CHUNG SUNG-JUN/GETTY IMAGES

Clickbait



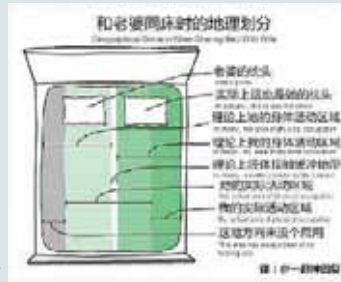
IRENE KUAN
Metro Online

Wasting time surfing the web shouldn't be a regular activity but sometimes, you just have to. Here are some sites that I guarantee: Just one click will get you hooked.

ChinaSMACK:

A website devoted to news about the world's most populous country is bound to be fascinating. Founded in 2008, ChinaSMACK posts stories found in Chinese media that are trending on microblogging sites like Weibo. Most of the articles have been translated from Chinese to English, so the quality of the writing isn't great, but you won't care once you start reading some of the crazy stories being talked about amongst Chinese netizens. Learn what a "human flesh search" is.

Distractify: One of the newer entries on the web, this site is similar to BuzzFeed, often posting entertaining, albeit useless articles. Wouldn't you like to learn about 'The 29 most infuri-



SCREEN GRAB

ating things EVER?" Business Insider has called Distractify one of the fastest growing sites ever, with over 10 million Facebook shares since its launch in October.

Upworthy: This social media site posts viral articles that encourage debate amongst its readers. They say they will not clutter the site with "pageview-juking slideshows," but do admit the site is biased, hence "speaking the truth." It can get a little spammy with pop-up ads, since they don't make any actual money yet.

Twitter

Google is in trouble for ads based on health info searches. @metropicks asked: Do ads like this make you feel violated?

@RobbieRobb: If I search online for anything I expect it to be fair game for advertising.

@Russell_Barth: google is YET to suggest any Medical Marijuana products or sites, oddly...



Comments

RE: New facial recognition app 'creepy', says kids entertainer Raffi, published online Jan. 10
Facial recog is only getting better and will never go away. The moment we sent our single photo to the cloud, our faces became public property, worse, all your info and images on FB belong to that company, meaning that they can even sell them if they so wish
johnnyive, posted to metronews.ca

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Egoyan treads in both light and dark territory in latest projects

From screen to stage.

Wildly different productions keep acclaimed director's creativity sharp



BACKSTAGE PASS

Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

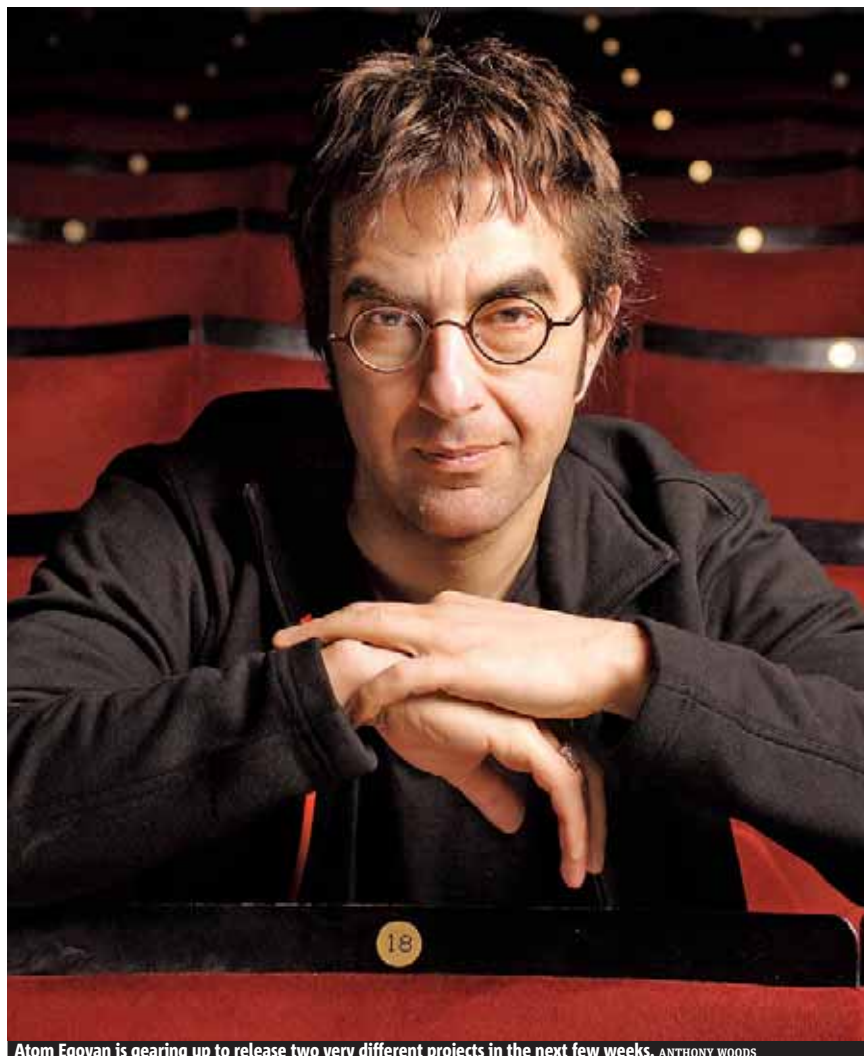
Atom Egoyan's career is defined by defying expectations. The critically acclaimed director follows his artistic muse from project to project, without concern for tone, genre or even medium. But, says Egoyan, it's this seemingly erratic career path that has allowed him to remain a creative lighting rod for almost 30 years.

"It's not just 'Would you be excited to watch that?'" he says of choosing projects.

"It's whether or not you could be involved with that for years."

His latest creative pursuits find him opening two disparate projects weeks apart from one another. The director's production of *Così fan tutte* for the Canadian Opera Company begins Saturday, while his latest film, *Devil's Knot*, about the West Memphis Three murders, opens the following Friday.

The differences between the two projects are by design: going into making *Devil's Knot* and its equally harrowing forthcoming follow-up, *The Captive*, Egoyan says he knew he was wading into some dark thematic territory. "I just didn't want to be in that place," he says. "I



Atom Egoyan is gearing up to release two very different projects in the next few weeks. ANTHONY WOODS

wanted to do something fun."

As promised, *Così fan tutte*, which tells the story of a pair of young men testing their lovers'

fidelity, pushes the filmmaker into new territory. "I've never worked on something that allowed me to use this particular

palette, which is very colourful and eclectic." Yet even it bears the hallmarks of some of his previous work, particularly the

When & where

- Despite mastering both the stage and the silver screen, there's one medium Egoyan never gave the time it deserved: television. "I think it is the form of our time," he says. "That's where drama's being explored." Egoyan gave television a shot early in his career, directing episodes of *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* and the pilot for the Friday the 13th television series. But even he admits he didn't take it seriously. "I did it to subsidize my feature film dreams. I can't regret that because I went on to make the films that I'm most identified with now."

film *Chloe*, which similarly allows its characters to explore formerly taboo subjects consequence free.

These sorts of thematic carryovers go back to the period when Egoyan first worked with the COC on *Salome*, launched between his 1994 film *Exotica* and 1997's *The Sweet Hereafter*. "The creation of any work of art is sacred," he says. "You hope that somehow these projects feed off each other."

Così fan tutte opens Saturday at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 145 Queen St. W with performances running until February 21st. Check out coc.ca for details.

Devil's Knot opens Jan 24th.

2 SCENE

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Director weaves tale of beauty and brutality

Stranger by the Lake.

Suspense-filled film has traces of *Strangers on a Train* and *The Night of the Hunter*

ADAM
NAYMAN
scene@metronews.ca

"I'd describe my film as an existential thriller," says Alain Guiraudie of his remarkable new film *Stranger By the Lake*, which opens at the TIFF Bell Lightbox nearly a year after receiving best in show reviews at the 2013 Cannes International Film Festival. "I'd say it's more about human nature than it is a detective story."

That said, there is something undeniably mysterious about the 50-year-old French director's newest feature, which unfolds entirely in and around the rocky shores of a country lake unofficially — and yet unmistakably — earmarked as a cruising ground for homosexual men. It's not hard to read the motives of Franck,



Stranger by the Lake opens at TIFF Bell Lightbox on Friday. CONTRIBUTED

(Pierre Deladonchamps), a friendly, handsome newcomer to the location, but the guy he's interested in — the swaggering, mustachioed Michel — is a question mark: is his vaguely menacing air merely a macho come-on, or is he genuinely dangerous?

It's a suspense scenario worthy of Alfred Hitchcock,

although while Guiraudie concedes that the director of *Strangers on a Train* is a big influence on his work, he wasn't thinking about him on this project. "In terms of influence, the film that hovers over *Stranger By the Lake* is *The Night of the Hunter*, he explains, referring to the 1956 classic where Robert Mitchum played a deranged

preacher with "love" and "hate" tattooed on his knuckles.

That film was a treatise on good and evil, while *Stranger By the Lake* is less melodramatic: while its story eventually twists and turns into a murder mystery, it's as much about beauty — of the landscape and the bodies within it — as brutality.

In light of its explicit sex scenes, some have questioned whether *Stranger By the Lake* is meant as a provocation, but Guiraudie says this is not the case.

"In this film, I was investigating how sex is as natural as leaves on a tree, or the water in a lake, or a bird's song. As a result, I wasn't thinking of

Quoted

"I think there are a lot of things that I don't see in my own films, and I don't try to catch everything."

Filmmaker Alain Guiraudie

it as particularly provocative." At the same time, he's willing to admit that he leaves a lot of space for the viewer to be either shocked or enraptured by the images onscreen — and also to interpret any hidden meanings in between the plot points.

"The fact that each viewer has a new or personal point of view doesn't bother me at all," he says.

"On the contrary, I find it interesting that spectators take ownership of the film through their interpretations. And if they see something in it, it must be in there. I think there are a lot of things that I don't see in my own films, and I don't try to catch everything."

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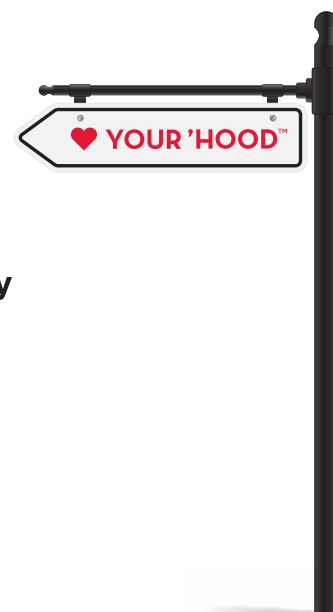


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Branagh sheds light on shadowy worlds

Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit. Director/actor had his work cut out for him navigating the world of Wall Street



It's been more than 20 years since the end of the Cold War, but the minds behind long-running spy franchises have still been struggling with how to make espionage cool in a more complicated geopolitical era. So when it came to updating Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan for the 21st century with Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit, director Kenneth Branagh (who also co-stars as the film's villain), was more than happy to inject some old Cold War energy.

"I like the Cold War era and the big sort of elemental standoff between, in this case, Russia and America, and east and west and old and new and old empires and new



Kenneth Branagh, right, stars and directs Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit, which opens on Friday. CONTRIBUTED

empires," Branagh says.

"But to be able to put Jack Ryan there at a time when it was a different kind of elemental face off between Russia and America — and where

one tiny event in one part of the world can so dramatically and catastrophically influence a larger event elsewhere with that same sort of good principled moral conscious'd

man in a very much dirtier world — for me, that was pretty interesting."

The route to that new faceoff, it turned out, was through the world of inter-

national finance. Shadow Recruit follows Ryan (Chris Pine, the fourth actor to play the role) from London School of Economics student to post-9/11 Marine volunteer to reluctant CIA recruit, where his economic skills land him in a covert job on Wall Street, looking out for financial activity that might hint at terrorist activities.

It wasn't necessarily a world Branagh fully grasped, he admits. "One of the excitements about trying to reimagine [the franchise] was finding a world, so the interconnectivity of the financial markets was one that was both interesting and a bit of a brain teaser for me. Chris was very good at understanding it, thank God."

Dizzying financial data aside, the gig offered Branagh the chance to live out some long-held filmmaking fantasies.

"I wanted to make a movie — having grown up loving them — where a man passes on information to another man in a cinema, where two men meet on a bench

Quoted

"I wanted to make a movie — having grown up loving them — where a man passes on information to another man in a cinema..."

Kenneth Branagh on living out a childhood dream directing Jack Ryan

at night in Moscow and talk about the fate of the world, while a dog is distracting people from thinking that they're doing anything nefarious," he says.

That dog, by the way, might not get to come back, should Shadow Recruit span a sequel.

"I learned [Russian] phonetically while walking the dog," Branagh says of his preparation.

"We have a dog in this movie, [but] the next dog in the next Jack Ryan film, if there is one, will be my dog, who can now speak Russian. So I'm looking forward to seeing her in that."

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Are the Razzies run by couch-potato critics?

Watch before you weigh in. And the award for worst movie awards group goes to: The Razzies!

MATT PRIGGE

Metro World News

The Oscars can always be counted on to miss or even snub great films, filmmakers and actors. But one can always predict the Razzies. Formed in 1980, the Golden Raspberry Awards were meant to act as the flip side of the Academy Awards, highlighting the worst the movie industry produces. But even more so than the Oscars, which traditionally reward safe prestige over genuine invention, the Razzies are boringly timid. And now that aggregating popular opinion is easier than ever, thanks to sites like Rotten Tomatoes, the Razzies do little more than repeat whatever everyone already said.

So guess what? The Worst



Grown Ups 2. TRACY BENNETT / SONY - COLUMBIA PICTURES / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Picture nominees include The Lone Ranger, because of course they do. The film tanked and garnered terrible reviews, therefore it's on there. Ditto After Earth, because that bombed, too. Lindsay Lohan got nominated for The Canyons, because she's Lindsay Lohan and isn't she crazy? Lady Gaga

got a supporting actress nom for the roughly three minutes she spent in Machete Kills because a) she's a musician acting and b) her latest album didn't do so hot, so backlash time.

Did the Razzie committee even see these films? Did they even have to? Their nominations, as every year, are based

on what has already been deemed terrible by the masses. Perhaps if they saw The Lone Ranger divorced from the bad press that mounted months before its release, and maybe even ignored its admitted over-length, they might have seen that it was actually doing something interesting, even subversive with the western genre. But that would require independent thinking.

Maybe if they watched After Earth half a year after its release, they might see that it's a nifty (if often problematic) old-school adventure. They might even realize the truly bold thing to do would be to ignore the massive backlash against director M. Night Shyamalan, especially as After Earth is the least M. Night movie of his career.

If watching films removed from their reputations is hard, then watching The Canyons should be easy. Lohan's entire performance is commentary on her well-publicized real life. Her character has made a lifetime of bad mistakes that have kept her moneyed but abused. She oozes a weariness that you can't fake.

It's the most moving performance of her career, including her earlier work before her lifestyle made her into a living joke that entertains people like the Razzie voters.

In 1987, Ishtar came out in the wake of months of terrible press focusing on its ridiculously large budget and various production hiccups. The film was set up for failure, and it got it, including Razzie nominations for Picture and Director. (Alas, a little movie called Leonard Part 6 proved to be an even worse contender that year.) But in the last few years its reputation has turned. Critics have reevaluated it, long removed from the original consensus. Its writer/



The Lone Ranger. JERRY BRUCKHEIMER, INC. / PETER MOUNTAIN / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The nominations are in!

- Worst Picture:** After Earth, Grown Ups 2, The Lone Ranger, A Madea Christmas, Movie 43
- Worst Actor:** Johnny Depp (The Lone Ranger), Ashton Kutcher (Jobs), Adam Sandler (Grown Ups 2), Jaden Smith (After Earth), Sylvester Stallone (Bullet To The Head, Escape Plan, Grudge Match)
- Worst Actress:** Halle Berry (Movie 43, The Call), Selena Gomez (Getaway), Lindsay Lohan (The Canyons), Tyler Perry (A Madea Christmas), Naomi Watts (Diana, Movie 43)
- Worst Supporting Actress:** Lady Gaga (Machete Kills), Salma Hayek (Grown

Ups 2), Katherine Heigl (The Big Wedding), Kim Kardashian (Tyler Perry's Temptation), Lindsay Lohan (In-App-Propriate Comedy, Scary Movie 5)

- Worst Supporting Actor:** Chris Brown (Battle Of The Year), Larry the Cable Guy (A Madea Christmas), Taylor Lautner (Grown Ups 2), Will Smith (After Earth), Nick Swardson (A Haunted House, Grown Ups 2)
- Worst Director:** The 13 People Who Directed Movie 43, Dennis Dugan (Grown Ups 2), Tyler Perry (A Madea Christmas, Temptation), M. Night Shyamalan (After Earth), Gore Verbinski (The Lone Ranger)

director, the brilliant and beloved Elaine May, quipped, "If all of the people who hate Ishtar had seen it, I would be a rich woman today."

The Razzies are good for a couple light chuckles that will be enjoyed by people who will

immediately forget them, then move onto whatever becomes the next minor distraction. Many of the people they razz deserve it, but none of them are as consistently worthless and bad at their jobs as the Razzies.



After Earth. SONY - COLUMBIA PICTURES / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Liam Payne. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Liam Payne apologizes for living on the ledge

One Direction member Liam Payne says he is sorry for being "stupid and irresponsible" after he was photographed standing on a building ledge 34 stories above the ground.

A photo published Wednesday in British tabloid the Sun shows the boy-band singer standing on the ledge of a high-rise with a city that appears to be London behind him.

The 20-year-old said in a

statement that "I regret being there and having a photo taken. It was a stupid and irresponsible thing to do."

He urged fans not to imitate his "extremely dangerous" behaviour.

The band emerged from Simon Cowell's British TV series The X Factor in 2010 and became one of the world's top-selling groups, with three albums topping U.S. music charts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lohan orders police protection for party

Lindsay Lohan likes to use protection, apparently. While in London this week, the scandal-prone starlet reportedly put in a call to the Metropolitan Police to provide an escort for a 10-foot walk from her car to a venue for a friend's birthday party, according to the Mail Online. Lohan apparently felt she needed the beefed up security detail because of a clutch of paparazzi waiting and she reportedly asked the police to arrest the photographers for loitering. **METRO**



METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Duff needed more marriage stuff from Comrie



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

It looks like Hilary Duff and her soon-to-be ex-husband, ex-NHL star Mike Comrie, tried marriage counselling for over 18 months before announcing their separation. But in the end, it wasn't enough to save their union as apparently Comrie didn't do "any of the things they'd worked on."

A source (aka: "someone from Huff's PR team") told Us Weekly, "She felt he didn't put enough effort into the

relationship," they said. "He never did anything!"

One reason for the not-doing-stuff? Comrie had to retire from professional hockey in 2012 due to a constant hip injury.

A source to Life & Style echoes this sentiment. "He's in the house all day, every day," an insider tells the mag. "It was a strain on the relationship."

The couple announced two weeks ago that they "have mutually decided to an amicable separation" and will "remain best friends and will continue to be in each other's lives." The two are parents to the toddler Luca, of whom they'll have joint custody.

It certainly looks like an amicable split, with Hilary tweeting, "Mike and I are sitting here, we are so appreciative for all of your kindness & well wishes." She continued, "not an easy day but we're getting thru it together."



Gisele Bündchen

No Superbowl stress in the Bündchen-Brady house

It may be NFL playoff time in the Tom Brady-Gisele Bündchen household, but the stress doesn't carry over at home.

"He's very focused," the 33-year-old Bündchen said of Brady, quarterback for the New England Patriots, in a recent interview. "We are both very supportive of one another in what we do. ... Of course

nobody likes to lose.

"Those aren't the best days. He knows he does his best. He works extremely hard."

The three-time Super Bowl champ and his New England Patriots travel to Denver to play the Broncos on Sunday for the AFC championship.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twitter



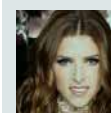
@solangeknowles

Just called my bf to report hearing noises in the house. Go to check on my son, only to find out he's been up since 2 too. HE is the "noise".



@lenadunham

Did the thing I swore I'd never do: got a public massage at an airport kiosk. It hurts not to know yourself anymore.



@AnnaKendrick47

Aren't we supposed to have meals in pill form by now? Cause at least once a week I open my fridge and think "s---, I need to make water"



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Throw out the style rule book

Fashion magazines often try to rule our wardrobes with a vice-like, arbitrary and indiscriminating grip. No one should dare to brave horizontal stripes. Under no circumstances should any woman in her 40s wear a short skirt. But it's all rubbish really, isn't it? And at the end of the day, don't we have enough intellectual capacity to know when something works and something doesn't? We enlisted Julie Ragolia, the fashion director of Man Of The World magazine who's styled Lady Gaga, to help us throw out the fashion rule book.

KIT GILBERT
Metro World News



Ripped jeans are for teenage girls and Britney Spears only

Ripped jeans are a sign of a journeyed and well-lived life. A hole in the knee reflects a willingness to fall, always an admirable quality in a woman. Paired with a smart clutch and an elegant heel, a ripped jean can be quite chic.

Wearing one pattern head-to-toe is a bad idea

A woman should never leave the house looking like a tablecloth. Accessories can help prevent that: a great belt, the right bag...solid, strong pieces can tie it all together and break up a pattern before it goes bad. I'm a big fan of patterns overall. Before wearing one pattern head to toe, consider mixing mismatched patterns. It's a surefire way to boldly own a look, and is surprisingly more subtle than one would think.



Unless you are Alexa Chung, don't attempt to conquer double denim

As a devotee to Ralph Lauren and Levi's, I've been schooled to the contrary. I live for double denim. If tones and fabric weights are in balance, I say try for a triple play. I often wear chambray shirts with vintage jeans and a denim jacket. Throw an oversized Navajo knit cardigan over the shoulder to break things up now and then.

Midi skirts require six-inch heels

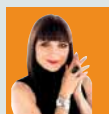
I'm a tomboy, and a busy fashion director, so super high heels are not at all practical on a day-to-day basis. A sleek Chelsea boot or a brogue can look just as sexy with a pencil skirt as any heel.



Be wary of costume pieces

To a degree, yes, however one statement piece, such as an oversized necklace, or ski-goggle-inspired sunnies, are costume done right.

Twitter



JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

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With my dear, beloved friend @BryanAdams in the throes of our shoot for @YorkdaleStyle #Yorkdale50

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Alexandria

Age: 22

Occupation: Graphic design student

What she's wearing : Jacket by Wilfred, backpack and shoes by Roots, shirt by T. Babaton, blazer/jacket by Zara, necklace by Marc by Marc Jacobs and pants by Guess.

Her inspiration : "My peers, blogs and my travels."



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Trend tracking with fitness bands

Beat the bloat in a fashionable fitness band. Metro tests out the techy devices that'll get you back on the blubber burn.

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News

Fitbit Flex

Pros: Device accurately measures my steps, and tracks when I wake up in the night. Syncs up in real time via a USB device, so when you log online, your latest movements are instantly charted. Comfortable and fashionably minimalist — after five minutes, I forgot I had it on.

Cons: Measures walking but no other forms of exercise, feeling outmoded. Too simplistic: in a world of designer apps and tech, this product feels like a step backwards. Display isn't informative and few Android devices are supported.

\$100
fitbit.com



TomTom Multi-Sport HRM+CSS+AM

Pros: Easy to read display, great if you're cycling, swimming or running at night. Excellent battery life, so there's no necessity to have the device continually on charge. GPS is incredibly accurate, as far as I'm aware.

Cons: Difficult to switch between the run, cycle and swim functions. Garish green design means it's looks fitting only with sports apparel.

One button interface: bold idea but currently not user-friendly.

\$299
tomtom.com



Nike+ FuelBand SE

Pros: Pared-down and stylish design that works well in all day-to-day scenarios: work, sport and social. Luddite-proof: press the button to cycle through calories burnt, steps taken and Fuel activity rating. Competitive element (found within Nike+ Groups) maintains your zeal for exercising.

Cons: Too bulky to wear during habitual tasks like typing. Pricey gadget to splash out on, especially if you're not a militant fitness type. Sleep-tracking element is poor compared to devices such as the Jawbone UP.

\$149,
nike.com

Online throw

When fashion and techies are mentioned, visions of flip-flops and hoodies a la Mark Zuckerberg come to mind, but one up-and-coming Canadian menswear brand is looking to prove every man can dress well, even in this digital age. Go online to Trends Report to learn more about Frank & Oak and its techie founders.

• **Online.** Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetrolreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report

• **Photo:** Frank & Oak founders Hicham Ratnani and Ethan Song



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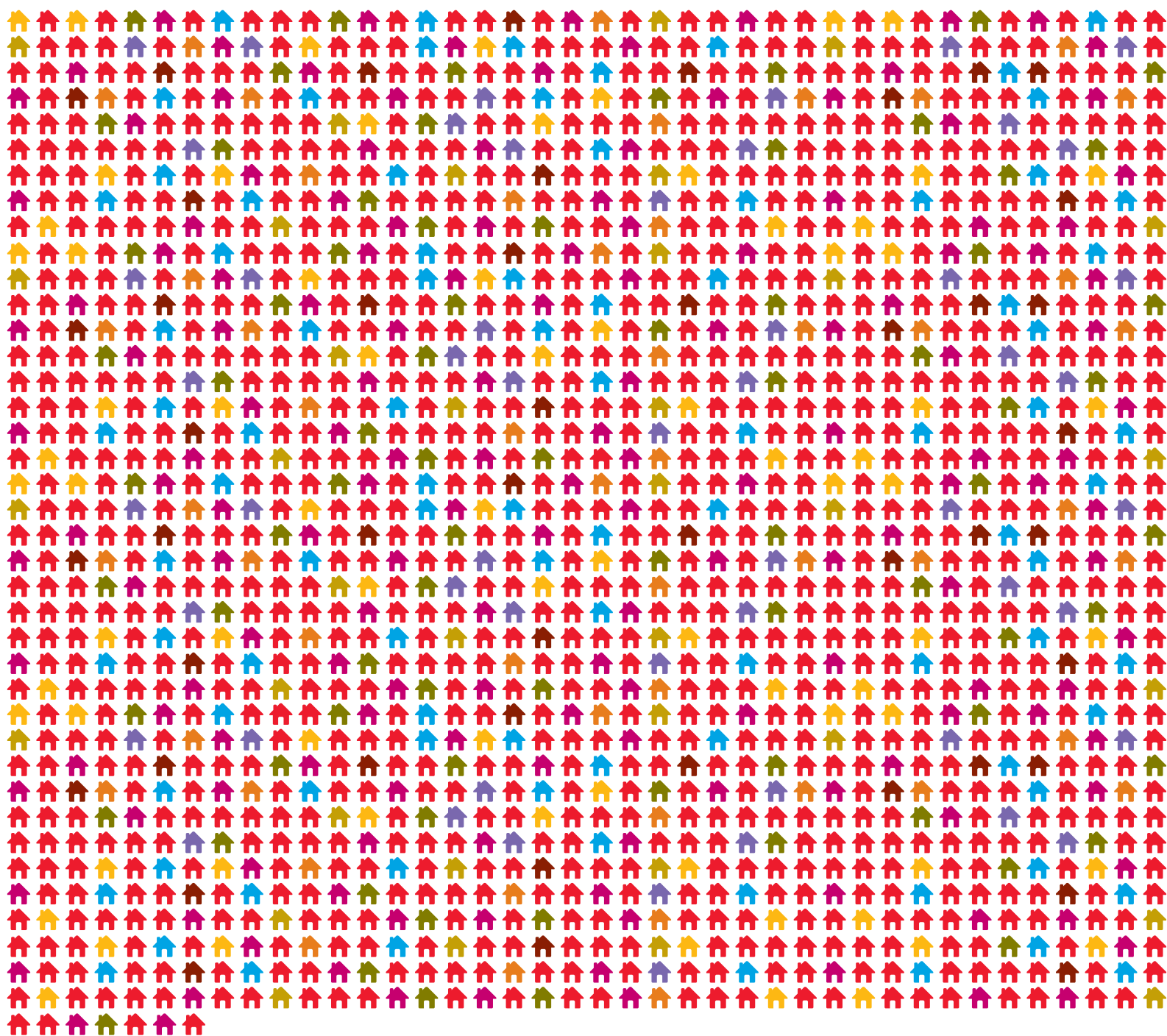
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The Five heritage revival project to bring a touch of European flair to Yonge Street

The Five Condos.

Project includes original storefronts dating back to the 1800s, European-style promenade and 50-storey tower



CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

Tucked away on a stretch of downtown Yonge Street in dire need of a facelift is one of the largest historic building facade restoration projects in Canada, a development that promises to create a vibrant, new urban village.

The Five Condos at 5 St. Joseph is a joint project by Graywood and MOD developments that aims to animate this dreary section of Yonge Street between College and Bloor. Until recently, this property consisted of a stretch of outlet stores and fast food takeouts occupying the block at the corner of Yonge and St. Joseph.

This century-old campus

was the original warehouse and office space for Toronto's largest moving company, Rawlinson Cartage, which previously occupied the south end of the property.

A row of narrow, three-storey storefronts dating back to the late 1800s will be retained and restored. Fourteen residences will be located on two floors above a new, ground-level collection of luxury boutiques under The Yonge Collection name.

"The entire ground floor on three streets will be retail," says site project manager Larry Gayne. "So (we're making) Yonge Street, St. Joseph and St. Nicholas into a trendy little narrow European-style promenade. It's going to give a little bit of a European flavour to it."

The restoration is being conducted by the award-winning ERA Architects Inc., which specializes in heritage revival, in conjunction with Hariri Pontarini Architects and design firm Cecconi Simone.

There are three buildings at the north end, one of which underwent an art deco makeover in the late 1920s. The historic 1905 five-storey facade is part of the street-level design



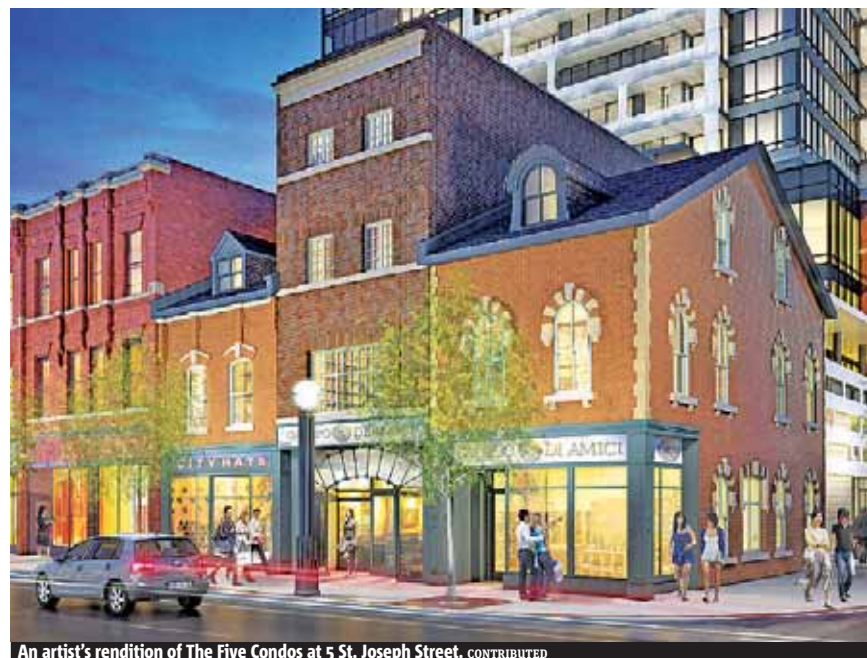
An aerial view of the heritage facade. DAVID NAISMITH/CONTRIBUTED



Construction workers disassembling the steel bracing from the facade in December. DUNCAN McALLISTER

of the building.

Last December, the construction team carefully disassembled the giant steel gables bracing the four-storey Gothic revival building along



An artist's rendition of The Five Condos at 5 St. Joseph Street. CONTRIBUTED

the south side of St. Joseph.

Construction of the tower is well underway. "It is actually 50 storeys including the top two mechanical rooms — 48 floors of suites and amenities

and six underground floors," says Gayne.

The Five will offer a complete package for fitness and fun including a steam room, fitness centre and change

rooms. The Garden on Two will be an urban escape and terraced rooftop. There are plans for a new bank at retail level and six levels of parking off St. Joseph Street.

Legal Matters

Be prepared for complexities with an estate purchase

I purchased a condo from the estate of a person who passed away last fall. One of the conditions of the

agreement of purchase and sale was that the vendor could push out the closing date if they had not received a certificate of appointment of estate trustee (otherwise known as probate) by the time of closing. The closing date came and went with no transaction because the trustee had yet to be appointed by the courts. This was on Dec.

15, 2013. Now the vendor is saying it might be some time because there are complications with the executor not being a Canadian resident. I just want my deposit back so we can buy another condo but the vendor's lawyer is saying that there is still a valid agreement of purchase and sale. Can they keep our deposit for a long period of time?



LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

Typically, people buy property from an estate because the vendor is motivated to sell and won't overprice the home (in other words, you could get a good deal). However, purchasers from an estate have

to remember that in most cases the property cannot be sold without the court first having appointed an estate executor. This is a slow process that can become quite complex if there are extenuating circumstances such as an out-of-province executor. I often advise clients purchasing from an estate to agree to the extension of the closing but that they should also add

a drop-dead date whereby if the executor has not been appointed by the courts they can unilaterally get their deposit back and move on to another transaction. Otherwise, you may find yourself stuck in a deal with no immediate way out.

Follow Jeff Cowan on Twitter @Cowan_Law or on the website at cowanlaw.ca





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found at twitter.com/bildgta,
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bildblogs.ca.

Now that it's 2014, I'd like to wish everyone a happy new year full of health, happiness and success.

I feel that 2014 will present us with our share of challenges and opportunities as BILD continues to work with our partners in government to build safe, quality, complete communities that people can afford.

BILD has started the year by representing the industry and new homebuyers at the province's public consultations to review Ontario's

land-use planning system, decision-making process and the financial components of the development process.

A comprehensive, fact-based look at Ontario's land-use planning and financial systems has the potential to improve the affordability of new homes in the GTA.

Over the past decade, the cost of new homes has increased tremendously due to a number of factors related to public policy.

This is evident in the high-rise sector; in the past four years, this is where almost 60 per cent of new homes were being built.

Affordability is challenged by high land prices, outdated zoning bylaws and the effect of government fees and charges that are paid by new homebuyers as part of the final purchase price.

The latter includes development charges, planning and building permit fees, parkland dedication, property and land-transfer taxes, mortgage insurance

Rising cost of homes

Development charges currently make up the largest portion of government-imposed fees on new homes, and since 2004 have increased between 143 and 357 per cent across the GTA.

and HST, just to name a few — totalling on average 20 per cent of the cost of a new condominium.

Development charges currently make up the largest portion of government-imposed fees on new homes, and since 2004 have increased between 143 and 357 per cent across the GTA.

With up to 100,000 people choosing our great region as their home every year, it's going to be an exciting — and challenging — year for all of us as we work together to build a better GTA.

What's hot on the condo market



DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1. Mimico

Now Open: New presentation centre, On The Go Mimico condominium residences. Head over to Judson Street and Royal York Road across from the Mimico GO station. Call 647-692-8417 or visit onthehomimico.com for more info.

2. Downtown

Open House: Downtown condo penthouse at the Space lofts. One bedroom, one bathroom, 630 sq. ft. Head over to 255 Richmond St. E., Jan. 18 and 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. Call 416-443-0300 for more info.

3. St. Clair West

Preview Opening: The Homes of St. Clair West townhomes near Caledonia Road and Innes Avenue. Visit the sales centre at 836 St. Clair Ave. W., Jan. 18 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 416-233-4913 or visit thehomesofstclairwest.ca.



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Caring for your fireplace

Fireboxes, flues and chimneys



CHARLES THE BUTLER
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If you've been using your fireplace this winter, it's

important to understand how to properly care for it.

It's always a good idea to ensure the chimney is in good working order. Hire a professional chimney cleaner to both inspect the chimney structure and clean out the flue. The flue is the part of the chimney that you never see, where the smoke travels to the outside.

The firebox is usually made of bricks or metal (this is where you burn the wood).

These surfaces generally do not need to be cleaned.

But you do need to remove excess ashes:

1. Only remove cold ashes from your fireplace; warm ashes can burn you and are a huge fire hazard.

2. Never use a vacuum cleaner to remove cold ashes, since this will damage the vacuum cleaner.

3. Always use a metal dust bin or small metal shovel to remove the cold ashes from

the fireplace.

4. Place the cold ashes in a metal container as you remove them from the fireplace. Put this outside as soon as you are done.

A butler's trick that I have learned over the years is to always leave a few of the ashes in the fireplace under the grate, as this helps the next fire burn successfully. I don't know why, but I can assure you that this has worked every single time I have tried it!



You don't need to clean the firebox, but you need to remove the ashes. ISTOCK



An artist's rendition of MOTO towns. CONTRIBUTED

Urban design meets small town charm

Meet the condo

- **What.** MOTO Modern Towns at Kettle Lakes Club
- **Builder.** Aspen Ridge Homes
- **Architect.** Richard Vink, VA3 Design
- **Location.** Bayview Avenue and Bethesda Side Road, Richmond Hill

- **Sizes.** From 1,640 to 1,752 sq. ft.
- **Pricing.** From \$539,990
- **Suites.** Two and three-bedroom floor plans
- **Sales Centre.** 12890 Bayview Ave., Richmond Hill
- **Website.** aspenridge-homes.com

The project overview

A new community in Richmond Hill by Aspen Ridge is nestled among the many kettle lakes that dot the Oak Ridges Moraine. The MOTO modern towns consist of a collection of executive townhomes featuring modern architecture, surrounded by rolling hills, forests and lakes.

Building amenities

The neighbourhood offers a wealth of recreation options with large parks, public swimming pools, skating and hockey arenas, a 300-person amphitheatre and a skateboard park. Scenic hiking and biking trails snake through the wooded terrain, which is enhanced with walkways and lookout points.

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This recipe serves six.

Wine pairing

White Burgundy: Try this inventively woody, earthy dish with a nutty, mineral-laden white Burgundy (such as Macon or, if budget permits,

Puligny-Montrachet) and bask in the subtle decadence.

Alternative: If you prefer red, uncork a Chianti.

Portobello and chestnuts: Earthy duo

The chestnuts add a rich earthiness to this dish and make the mushrooms that much more meat-like. Look for the largest, juiciest-looking portobellos for this dish. If your mushrooms are smaller, you may have extra stuffing; stir in half a beaten egg and bake in a gratin dish alongside your mushrooms.

1. Heat oven to 220 C (425 F). Cut off mushroom stems flush with caps and chop. You should have about 375 ml (1 1/2 cups).

2. In a large skillet, heat 30 ml (2 tbsp) of the olive oil over high heat. Working in batches, add mushroom caps to pan and fry for 1 to 2 minutes per side or until just beginning to soften. Transfer gill side up to a baking sheet. Repeat with remaining mushroom caps, adding more oil to pan as needed. Set aside.

3. Melt butter in the same

skillet over medium heat. Add onions, celery and fennel seeds and sauté for 10 minutes or until slightly caramelized. Add garlic, chestnuts and chopped mushroom stems and sauté for 2 minutes or until mushrooms are juicy. Remove from heat.

4. Stir bread crumbs and parsley into stuffing mixture. Add enough apple juice to moisten stuffing well. Season with salt and pepper. Divide stuffing into 6 portions and place on top of each of the mushroom

caps on the baking sheet. Top with remaining 6 mushroom caps, gill side down, to make a kind of sandwich. Do not totally enclose the stuffing. Roast for 15 minutes or until mushrooms are tender and stuffing is crisp around the edges. Serve drizzled with Rich Red Wine Sauce.

BOTH RECIPES: THE CANADIAN PRESS/ THE FLAVOUR PRINCIPLE BY LUCY WAVERMAN AND BEPPI CROSARIOL. PHOTOGRAPHY BY RYAN SZULC. PUBLISHED BY HARPERCOLLINS PUBLISHERS LTD, 2013.

Ingredients

- 12 large portobello mushrooms
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) olive oil, divided
- Chestnut Stuffing**
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) butter
- 250 ml (1 cup) chopped onions
- 250 ml (1 cup) chopped celery
- 5 ml (1 tsp) cracked fennel seeds
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) chopped garlic
- 575 ml (2 1/3 cups) vacuum-packed peeled roasted chestnuts (about 400 g/14 oz), chopped
- 1 l (4 cups) fresh bread crumbs
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) unsweetened apple juice
- Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
- Rich Red Wine Sauce (see below)

Condiment. Rich Red Wine Sauce



This recipe makes about 125 ml (1/2 cup) of sauce.

Pomegranate juice gives a wonderful colour to this sauce as well as a subtle

flavour. This is similar to a beurre blanc sauce but made with red wine.

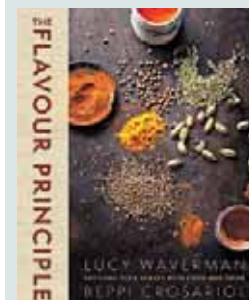
Ingredients

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) red wine
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) pomegranate juice
- 10 ml (2 tsp) light soy sauce
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) granulated sugar
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) cold unsalted butter, cut in pieces
- Salt and freshly ground pepper

1. In a heavy pot, combine red wine, pomegranate juice, soy sauce and sugar. Bring to a boil over high heat, reduce heat and simmer for 10 - 20 minutes or until thickened. Remove from heat and stir in butter a few pieces at a time until fully incorporated and sauce is emulsified. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

Cookbook of the Week

Shining the spotlight on taste



The Flavour Principle takes foodies back to the basis of food: flavour.

Indian curry spices, fiery Thai chilis, lemony citrus, smoky barbecue rubs — these are all flavours that make us passionate about food and drink.

In their book, Lucy Waverman and Beppi Crosariol examine about a dozen flavours through recipes and drink pairings.

The Flavour Principle features more than 30 gorgeous menus covering flavours from all over the world. **METRO**

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There are many options when you choose a cruise wedding, which makes for an affordable, one-stop shopping wedding-moon that your entire group will enjoy.

Princess Cruises is a leader in cruise weddings, partly inspired by the 1980s TV show *The Love Boat*, where filming took place on several Princess ships. One of its ships, the *Ruby*, is a popular choice after it was christened by Trista and Ryan Sutter of *The Bachelorette* TV show.

Captains on some cruise lines can perform your wedding ceremony, but most lines need to book an official from the port you



Trista and Ryan Sutter of *The Bachelorette* TV show christened the *Ruby Princess* in 2008, which was followed by the wedding of contest winners Kip Hickman and Danielle Vurpillat. Gavin MacLeod, right, who played Captain Stubing on the TV show *The Love Boat*, gave away the bride. CONTRIBUTED

choose. Permission is generally based on where the ship is registered and what that country's government

allows. Most Princess Cruises captains can marry you because the ships are registered in Bermuda.

A basic package starts at about \$1,800 for the ceremony and \$450 for the licence. However, the aver-

age wedding costs about \$10,000, excluding the cruise cost and airfare for each person. But the sky is the limit,

with some weddings costing tens of thousands of dollars for hundreds of guests.

For guests who can't attend, many couples use the ship's live wedding webcam to share their day with family and friends at home. The image refreshes every minute, enabling viewers to follow the proceedings as they happen.

Cruise lines are experienced with unusual requests and will do their best to make your wedding dreams come true. One couple invited Canadian Mounties, who created an arbour with their swords for the couple to walk under. Getting permission to bring the swords on the ship was a challenge, but it was approved with special conditions and made for dramatic photos. Another bride wanted a flower girl and ring boy as part of her ceremony, but since she didn't know of any, she asked if child actors could be hired or borrowed.

To arrange your nautical nuptials, visit princess.com or call 1-800-PRINCESS (1-800-774-6237).

Secrets to tying the knot

Rebecca Grinnals, founder and president of Engaging Concepts, shares her secrets to nuptials near and far.

- Do start by establishing your couple style. Are you outdoorsy or urban; traditional or trendy; hippie or haute couture? This should

dictate everything from your choice of location and venue to your menu.

- Do make a list of words or phrases that describe the feelings you want your wedding to evoke — perhaps relaxed, great wine and eclectic music.

- Do choose a location and venue that has personal meaning.

- Don't do it yourself. Enlist the services of location-based wedding planners. They have the local knowledge and connections.

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NHL

Oilers pass Dubey on to Predators

It wasn't too long ago that Devan Dubnyk looked like the Edmonton Oilers' goaltender of the present and future.

After a couple of trades Wednesday, Dubnyk is now part of the past. The Oilers sent the 27-year-old to the Nashville Predators for forward Matt Hendricks, then acquired former Toronto Maple Leafs goalie Ben Scrivens from the Los Angeles Kings for a third-round pick in June's draft.

In 32 games this season, Dubnyk is 11-17-2 with a 3.36 goals-against average and .894 save percentage.

Scrivens has a 1.97 goals-against average and .931 save percentage this season. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

MLB

Dodgers' Kershaw getting \$215M for his K's: Report

Pitcher Clayton Kershaw agreed Wednesday to a \$215-million, seven-year contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press, a deal that makes the two-time Cy Young Award winner baseball's first player with a \$30-million average salary.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not yet been announced.

Kershaw receives the most lucrative deal for a pitcher, breaking the mark of \$180 million set by Justin Verlander last March for his seven-year contract with Detroit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Maple Leaf David Clarkson screens Sabres goalie Ryan Miller for a goal on Wednesday at Air Canada Centre. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leafs rise above Sabres in shootout

NHL. Buds win fifth and final regular-season meeting with their cross-border rival

From a 15-round shootout and infamous line brawl in the pre-season through John Scott's rare goal and "Princess Phaneuf" comments, the Toronto Maple Leafs and Buffalo Sabres enjoyed some memorable moments in the past few

On Wednesday

4

Maple Leafs

3

Sabres

months.

Their fifth and final regular-season meeting Wednesday night at Air Canada Centre was marked by an offensive

explosion and entertaining overtime that the Leafs came out on top of 4-3 in a shootout for their third straight victory.

The Leafs and Sabres combined to score four goals in just over eight minutes during a second-period span.

James van Riemsdyk, Joffrey Lupul and Tyler Bozak all scored in the shootout for Toronto (24-20-5).

Phil Kessel, Nikolai Kulemin and Morgan Rielly had the Leafs' regulation goals, while Matt Ellis, Matt

Moulson and Cody Hodgson scored for the Sabres (13-28-5).

This was the Leafs' league-leading ninth victory of the season in their 13th shootout.

Leafs goaltender James Reimer made 27 saves, picking up his first win since Dec. 19. U.S. Olympic goaltender Ryan Miller, who entered the night with a 2.45 goals-against average and .922 save percentage in 48 career games against the Leafs, stopped 26 of the 29 shots he faced.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sullinger's 20-20 experience drowns out Raps' racket



The Celtics' Jeff Green drives to the basket against the Raptors' Jonas Valanciunas on Wednesday in Boston. JARED WICKERHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Jared Sullinger scored 25 points and grabbed a career-best 20 rebounds, Avery Bradley had 20 points and the Boston Celtics held on to snap a nine-game losing streak with an 88-83 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Wednesday night.

Jeff Green scored 13 points and Kris Humphries 12 for the Celtics, who nearly blew an 18-point, second-half lead.

Sullinger's 20-20 was the first by a Celtics player since Kevin Garnett's first game in Boston in 2007. Garnett was dealt — along with Paul Pierce — to Brooklyn during the off-

On Wednesday

88

Celtics

83

Raptors

season.

DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points and Kyle Lowry had 18 with 12 assists for Toronto, which lost for just the third time in 11 games.

Trailing 73-56 entering

the final quarter, the Raptors scored 18 of the first 22 points to close the gap to 77-74 on Steve Novak's three-pointer from the left corner with 4 1/2 minutes to play. Boston missed 13 of its first 15 shots in the opening eight minutes of the fourth.

The Raptors nailed three three-pointers as they made their charge, with Novak hitting two and John Salmons the other.

Toronto had it down to 81-78, but DeRozan lost the ball on a drive with about 40 seconds left. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Too much weight on Wiggins'

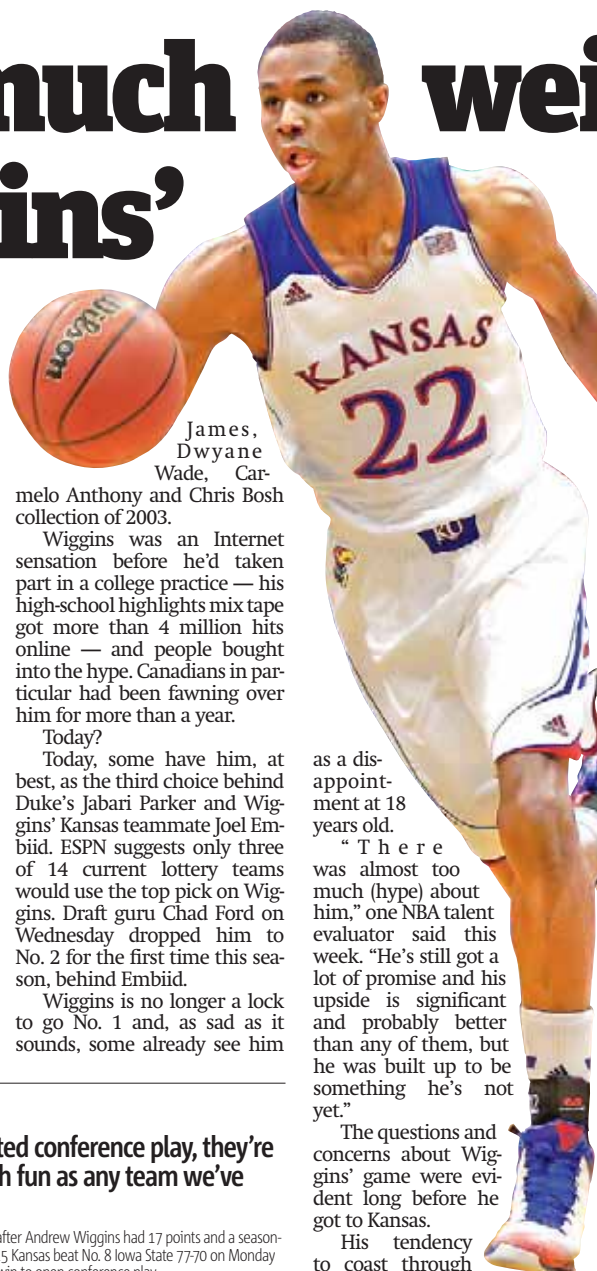
NCAA basketball. Some scouts expected more out of Thornhill phenom, but hyper-athletic wingman still has plenty of time to blossom

There is no doubt we live in an age of extraordinary hype, where stars are often made before they are born; we crave The Next Big Thing and there is an insatiable appetite to bestow greatness upon those who might not yet deserve it.

And for all the celebrities that are created, there can be as many victims — in too many cases, boys and girls — who have the daunting task of living up to sky-high expectations.

A case in point: Andrew Wiggins.

Three months ago, the Thornhill native was the presumptive No. 1 pick in the coming NBA draft, a can't-miss bundle of promise at the head of one of the most promising draft classes since the LeBron



James, Dwyane Wade, Carmelo Anthony and Chris Bosh collection of 2003.

Wiggins was an Internet sensation before he'd taken part in a college practice — his high-school highlights mix tape got more than 4 million hits online — and people bought into the hype. Canadians in particular had been fawning over him for more than a year.

Today?

Today, some have him, at best, as the third choice behind Duke's Jabari Parker and Wiggins' Kansas teammate Joel Embiid. ESPN suggests only three of 14 current lottery teams would use the top pick on Wiggins. Draft guru Chad Ford on Wednesday dropped him to No. 2 for the first time this season, behind Embiid.

Wiggins is no longer a lock to go No. 1 and, as sad as it sounds, some already see him

as a disappointment at 18 years old.

"There was almost too much (hype) about him," one NBA talent evaluator said this week. "He's still got a lot of promise and his upside is significant and probably better than any of them, but he was built up to be something he's not yet."

The questions and concerns about Wiggins' game were evident long before he got to Kansas.

His tendency to coast through

portions of games was a quiet criticism ("what's his motor really like?" one scout asked rhetorically this week); his ball-handling skills still need work.

Those who thought he was anywhere near an impact player in the NBA as a high schooler were wearing blinders, one scout said this week.

It is not to say he can't redeem himself — as if a teenager who'll be a Top 4 NBA draft pick needs redemption — as the NCAA season unfolds.

He had arguably his best game against Iowa State on Monday, 17 points and 19 rebounds in a Jayhawks win. It was the kind of performance that still leaves some scouts drooling.

"The potential is off the charts, but that's what it is right now," said one.

Scouts now see that the 2014 draft class is good but not necessarily great, a solid collection of top players who may or may not have a long-lasting impact on the league.

Wiggins?

He went into college carrying far too many expectations that were in no way of his own doing. He is a kid learning how to play — a gifted, special kid but a kid nonetheless — and



Andrew Wiggins' seven-foot Kansas teammate Joel Embiid is averaging 10.9 points, 7.4 rebounds, 1.4 assists and 2.6 blocks on 67.7 per cent shooting from the field this season. Embiid is a trendy pick to go No. 1 in this summer's NBA draft. GETTY IMAGES

Wiggins' statline

15.8 PPG

Andrew Wiggins has averaged 15.8 points, 6.3 rebounds, 1.5 assists, 0.9 blocks and 1.0 steals through 16 games with the Kansas Jayhawks this season.

if the flaws in his game have knocked him down a peg or two on the board in January, there's no reason he can't move himself back up by June.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Copa del Rey

Ronaldo floats in free kick in Rome

Cristiano Ronaldo celebrated his Ballon d'Or triumph by scoring from one of his trademark free kicks as Real Madrid beat Osasuna 2-0 on Wednesday to reach the Copa del Rey quarter-finals.

Ronaldo smashed a shot from 25 metres around the defensive wall and straight at goalie Andres Fernandez. The keeper tried to punch it out but ended up sending it down off the ground and into the net.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sochi Games

Italian IOC member criticizes U.S. over gay delegates

A senior Italian IOC member criticized the United States on Wednesday for including openly gay athletes in its official delegation for next month's Sochi Olympics.

"It's absurd that a country like that sends four lesbians to Russia just to demonstrate that in their country gay rights have (been established)," Mario Pescante said at an Italian Olympic Committee meeting in Milan on Wednesday, in comments widely reported by Italian media. "The games should not be an occasion and a stage to promote rights that sports supports daily."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Loosening up



"Since we started conference play, they're having as much fun as any team we've ever had."

Jayhawks coach Bill Self after Andrew Wiggins had 17 points and a season-high 19 rebounds as No. 15 Kansas beat No. 8 Iowa State 77-70 on Monday night for its third straight win to open conference play.

LISTEN TO Z103.5 ALL DAY TOMORROW TO INSTANTLY WIN AN ALL INCLUSIVE TRIP TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC!

Pospisil popping pills to cope with pain Down Under

Montreal's Eugenie Bouchard needed seven match points to secure a tough win over Virginie Razzano of France, 6-2, 7-6 (10) on Wednesday to reach the third round of the Australian Open.

Vasek Pospisil of Vancouver, seeded 28th, played through severe back pain to claim a 3-6, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (9), 6-1 victory over Australian Matthew Ebden.

The Canadian needed treatment three times in the second set and at times looked finished, but the 23-year-old fought on and managed to earn the improbable victory.

The back pain has bothered him since the start of the year, forcing him to quit a semifinal in India and pull out of a tour-



Montreal's Eugenie Bouchard celebrates during her win Wednesday in Melbourne. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

nament in Sydney.

"It's been lingering, I had to hang tough. I'm super-thrilled

Heat check

42 C

Some matches were suspended at the Australian Open, with organizers implementing the Extreme Heat Policy when the temperature reached 42 Celsius on Thursday afternoon.

to get through," said Pospisil, who depended on painkillers to get him to the finish after being told by a physiotherapist that he could go on if he wished.

"Midway through the third I was not feeling very good, I took some tablets and 30 minutes later I didn't feel so much."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Picking up pieces after a bad break



London, Ont., native Dave Duncan takes to the air on his way to victory in a men's World Cup skicross race in San Candido, Italy, on Dec. 22. ALESSANDRO TROVATI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dave Duncan. London Ont., native, who was injured for skicross event in Vancouver, is better than ever heading into Sochi

Dave Duncan's first Olympic experience was a disaster.

It also led to a conversation that gave the Canadian the motivation and drive to make the four-year push to Sochi.

Duncan never made it to the start area for the Olympic debut of men's skicross at the 2010 Vancouver Games after crashing during a training run at Cypress Mountain. Instead of making preparations to race in front of adoring fans in his home country, Duncan was waiting for X-ray results in hospital.

His fears were later confirmed — a broken collarbone would prevent him from competing at the Games.

"It definitely was a deep place, one of the deeper moments of my life so to speak,"

Quoted

"It might be a little more structured but still at the essence, it's just having fun with your friends."

Dave Duncan, comparing skicross to his days as a youngster when he and his friends would race to the bottom of the hill.

Duncan said in a recent interview. "It's not the way you expect your first Olympics to go."

Sensing that Duncan could use a little support, a nurse brought former Paralympian Rick Hansen into his hospital room. The Man in Motion was serving as an honorary mayor in the athletes village at the Games and had a message for Duncan.

"Basically the words were, 'What you do from this moment is going to define you,'" Duncan said.

It was then he realized his 2010 mission was in the past. Duncan became completely focused on his new goal of competing at the 2014 Games in Sochi. "Right there the decision was made," he said.

Duncan has already qualified for Sochi and appears set to peak at the right time. He's enjoying his best season on the World Cup circuit and started the new year in top spot in the overall rankings after recent back-to-back victories.

The London native had raced in several finals since joining the skicross team in 2007 but had not won a World Cup until this season. He broke through last month with a win in Innichen-San Candido, Italy and followed it up with another gold the next day.

"Maybe it's just a few more grey hairs," Duncan joked, when asked how he did it. "I'm getting older. It's just relying on past experience."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Is bigger better?

Go to metronews.ca/gameon to find out how Canada's men's hockey team is planning to cope with the larger Olympic-sized ice surface in Sochi.



Hockey

Datsyuk named Russia's captain

Alex Ovechkin was the first Russian athlete to carry the Olympic torch, but Pavel Datsyuk will be Russia's captain in Sochi.

With the support of Ovechkin, Datsyuk was named captain of the Russian men's hockey team on Wednesday as the 35-year-old Detroit Red Wings centre prepares to participate in his fourth Olympics.

"I am honoured to be named a captain," Datsyuk said via Twitter. "Our team embraces the opportunity and responsibility of representing our country on the home ice."

Ovechkin, last year's Hart Trophy-winner as NHL MVP, is considered the face of next month's Sochi Olympics. He is the only Russian-born captain in the NHL but told reporters at Washington Capitals practice last week that he thought Datsyuk should have that role in Sochi.

"To be honest with you, that kind of type of player, he has respect on the ice and off the ice," Ovechkin said. "My opinion is who (should) be captain is Datsyuk." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Moguls. Dufour-Lapointe and Bilodeau capture World Cup gold medals

Alex Bilodeau won the men's moguls gold medal and fellow Canadian Justine Dufour-Lapointe took the women's title Wednesday at a World Cup freestyle skiing event.

Montreal's Bilodeau, the reigning Olympic champion, took the men's title with a score of 25.72. He said he made some mistakes on his winning run and thought he might be surpassed by teammate Mikael Kingsbury. But Kingsbury almost went off the course on his final run and ended up sixth.

Americans Patrick Deneen

and Bradley Wilson finished second and third respectively.

Dufour-Lapointe, from Montreal, put together a score of 23.90 on her final run to take the women's title. She came back from a distant 15th in qualifying to overtake Americans Heidi Kloser and Hannah Kearney for gold.

It's the second-last World Cup moguls event before the Sochi Olympics. The World Cup circuit takes a break following Sunday's competition at Val Saint-Côme, Que.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Canada's Alex Bilodeau, left, and Maxime Dufour-Lapointe won gold medals in freestyle World Cup moguls events on Wednesday in Wilmington, N.Y.



MIKE GROLL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	46	29	15	2	132	102	60
Tampa Bay	47	28	15	4	136	113	60
Montreal	47	26	16	5	118	111	57
Toronto	49	24	20	5	136	149	53
Detroit	46	20	16	10	118	127	50
Ottawa	47	21	18	8	134	146	50
Florida	46	18	21	7	109	141	43
Buffalo	46	13	27	6	83	129	31

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	47	33	12	2	152	112	68
Washington	46	22	16	8	137	137	52
Philadelphia	47	24	19	4	125	132	52
N.Y. Rangers	48	24	21	3	119	126	51
New Jersey	48	20	18	10	112	118	50
Columbus	46	22	20	4	129	131	48
Carolina	46	19	18	9	111	130	47
N.Y. Islanders	48	18	23	7	132	156	43

Wednesday's results

Toronto 4 Buffalo 3 (SO)
Washington at Pittsburgh
Vancouver at Anaheim

Tuesday's results

Colorado 3 Chicago 2 (OT)
Dallas 5 Edmonton 2
Florida 4 N.Y. Islanders 2
Nashville 4 Calgary 2
New Jersey 4 Montreal 1
Ottawa 3 Minnesota 0
Philadelphia 4 Buffalo 3
San Jose 2 Washington 1 (SO)
St. Louis 2 Phoenix 1
Tampa Bay 2 N.Y. Rangers 1
Toronto 4 Boston 3

Thursday's games — All Times Eastern

Nashville at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Detroit at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
NY Islanders at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Montreal at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Boston at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Winnipeg at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Vancouver at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	49	30	8	11	177	135	71
St. Louis	45	32	8	5	163	100	69
Colorado	46	29	12	5	135	117	63
Minnesota	49	25	19	5	118	122	55
Dallas	46	21	18	7	132	141	49
Nashville	48	20	21	7	113	143	47
Winnipeg	48	20	23	5	133	146	45

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	48	35	8	5	161	119	75
San Jose	47	29	12	6	150	117	64
Los Angeles	47	28	14	5	120	96	61
Vancouver	47	24	14	9	123	115	57
Phoenix	46	21	16	9	135	143	51
Calgary	47	16	25	6	105	148	38
Edmonton	49	15	29	5	128	174	35

Note: Two points for a win, one point for an overtime or shootout loss (OL column).

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pt
Crosby, Pgh	25	42	67
Kane, Chi	23	33	56
Tavares, NYI	21	35	56
Getzlaf, Ana	23	30	53
Thornton, SJ	5	45	50
Perry, Ana	25	24	49
Sharp, Chi	25	24	49
Kunitz, Pgh	24	25	49
Backstrom, Wash	11	37	48
Ovechkin, Wash	33	14	47
Toews, Chi	17	30	47
Okposo, NYI	19	27	46
Malkin, Pgh	12	34	46
Kessel, Tor	21	24	45
Hall, Edm	18	27	45

Not including last night's games

NFL PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sunday's games — All Times Eastern
AFC — New England at Denver, 3 p.m.
NFC — San Francisco at Seattle, 6:30 p.m.

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Sunday, Feb. 2
At East Rutherford, N.J.
AFC vs. NFC champions, 6:30 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	30	7	.811	—
d-Miami	27	11	.711	3½
Atlanta	20	18	.526	10½
d-Toronto	19	18	.514	11
Washington	18	19	.486	12
Chicago	18	19	.486	12
Detroit	16	22	.421	14½
Brooklyn	15	22	.405	15
Charlotte	16	24	.400	15½
New York	15	23	.395	15½
Cleveland	14	24	.368	16½
Boston	14	26	.350	17½
Philadelphia	13	25	.342	17½
Orlando	10	29	.256	21
Milwaukee	7	31	.184	23½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-San Antonio	30	8	.789	—
d-Portland	28	9	.757	1½
Oklahoma City	28	10	.737	2
d-L.A. Clippers	26	13	.667	4½
Houston	25	14	.641	5½
Golden State	25	14	.641	5½
Dallas	23	16	.590	7½
Phoenix	21	16	.568	8½
Denver	19	18	.514	10½
Memphis	19	19	.500	11
Minnesota	18	19	.486	11½
New Orleans	15	22	.405	14½
L.A. Lakers	14	24	.368	16
Sacramento	13	23	.361	16
Utah	13	26	.333	17½

Wednesday's results

Boston 88 Toronto 83
Chicago 126 Orlando 125 (30T)
Memphis 82 Milwaukee 77
Philadelphia 95 Charlotte 92
Washington 114 Miami 97
Utah at San Antonio
Sacramento at Minnesota
Houston at New Orleans
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix
Cleveland at Portland
Denver at Golden State
Dallas at L.A. Clippers
Tuesday's results
Charlotte 108 New York 98
Cleveland 120 L.A. Lakers 118
Indiana 116 Sacramento 92
Memphis 90 Oklahoma City 87
Thursday's games — All Times Eastern
Brooklyn at Atlanta, 3 p.m.
New York at Indiana, 3 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Houston, 9:30 p.m.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

Be honest with friends today, even if what you have to tell them is not what they want to hear. Having said that, maybe what you think is bad news is good news in their opinion.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Any plans you make now are under the influence of the full moon, so try not to take them too seriously. A lot depends on whether you made them rationally or emotionally.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Your ideas are as good as anyone else's but for some reason you think you are not as smart as your rivals. They may have fewer self-doubts but where intelligence is concerned you are way out in front.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

You may have a hard time controlling your emotions today but in a way that's good because, as usual, you have been keeping your feelings bottled up inside. Shout and scream if you have to.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Don't take it personally if loved ones are hard to get through to today. It seems they have a lot on their minds. If there are issues you need to discuss, wait until tomorrow when they won't be so worried by life.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Keep your ideas to yourself and stay tight-lipped even if your best friends ask what you are up to. That applies just as much on the work front. The less others know, the better for you.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Someone who envies your calm demeanor will turn up the heat today in the hope that you will start to sweat, but what they don't know is that you thrive on this sort of pressure.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Don't get upset if others don't seem interested in what you have to tell them. It's unlikely you will get much sense out of them over the next 24 hours.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Your words will carry more weight if you keep what you have to say to the point. Don't bother with explanations, just say what you mean and leave no one in any doubt that you mean what you say.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Some people may not deserve your assistance but as the moon is full in your opposite sign, you should be considerate. However, don't be so considerate that you let slip information that could help rivals get rich at your expense.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Today's full moon urges you to get your head out of the clouds and focus on the facts. You will have to tighten your belt financially over the next few weeks but it will only hurt if your attitude is wrong.

♓ Pisces

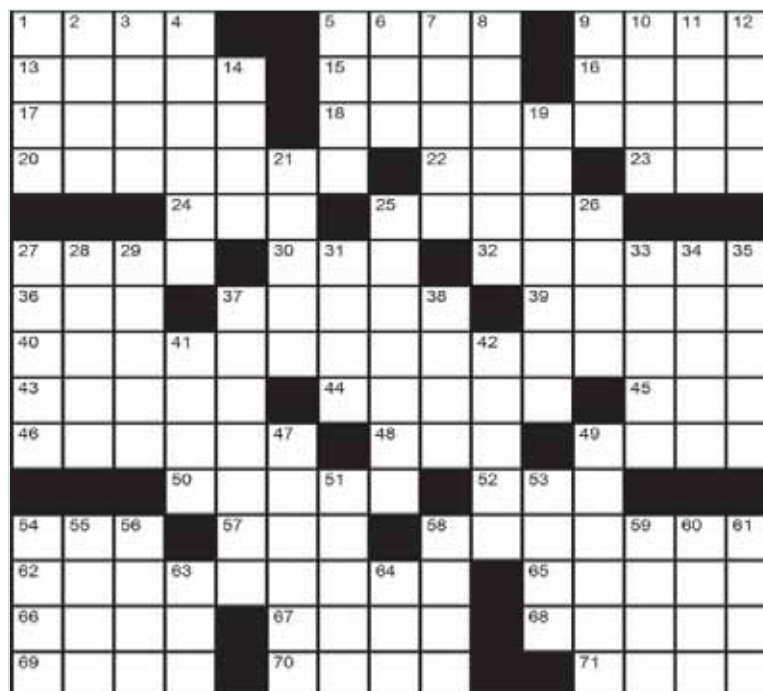
Feb. 20 - March 20

You may find it hard to stay focused today. You are advised to stop trying and let the cosmic winds blow you where they will. All roads lead to where you are destined to be. Why struggle? **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. Canadian singer of "Can't Choose" feat. Kardinal Offishall
5. NHL officials
9. Heel height unit
13. Overseas moneys
15. Medley
16. Casanova
17. Express
18. Canadian talk show icon who early on piloted a helicopter as a traffic reporter: 2 wds.
20. "SCTV" polka duo, The ___ Brothers
22. Certain constellation
23. She's opposite
24. Dietary letters
25. Actress Sharon
27. Pairs
30. Lady's love
32. F's music equivalent, ___
36. Bob & Doug interjections
37. WWI: Canada's coming of age on the world stage
39. Pointing-an-arrow person
40. Route 99's other name in BC: 4 wds.
43. Popeye creator, E.C. ___
44. White wine of Italy
45. Fuss
46. Smart ___ (Wise guys)
48. Which person?



49. Martha of "Some Came Running" (1958)
50. Writer, Madame de ___ (b.1766 - d.1817)
52. Actor Stephen
54. Elvis record label
57. Not their
58. Needle
62. CBC, e.g.: 2 wds.

65. People of the Arctic
66. Fever symptom
67. Novelist Ms. Ferber
68. Canadian lingerie retailer, La ___
69. Autoshop repair
70. Rockefeller Center muralist
71. "Begone!"

Down

1. Ms. Simpson, to pals
2. Baseball's Babe
3. Apothecary weight
4. Diarists
5. Drove
6. Yalie
7. Last
8. Evening party
9. Pique
10. Chris of "Sex and the City"
11. Aww-inspiring :)
12. Canadian luggage brand since 1986
14. Post
19. The Northwest ___
21. Heaves
25. Englishman Archibald Belaney (b.1888 - d.1938) ...during

- his life in the Ojibwa culture in Canada: 2 wds.
26. ___Tzu
 27. W Network's current docu-series "___ & Scott" about Canada's ice dancing champs
 28. Tire
 29. Meryl Streep/Julia Roberts movie, "August: ___ County"
 31. Annoys
 33. Direct selling company
 34. Novelist Charles' bookish surname (b.1814 - d.1884)
 35. Comic legend Richard
 37. Saskatchewan city
 38. Ex-ruler of Iran
 42. Soap brand
 47. Food toppers
 49. Metric singer Emily
 51. Show wear due to wind and rain
 53. Greek goddess of discord
 54. Carangid fish
 55. Press
 56. Sentence part
 58. Tiff
 59. Now, to Nero
 60. Pyramids place
 61. Louisiana, for one, in French
 63. Drenched
 64. Time off, slang-style

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Today



-2°/-4°
Partly sunny

Friday



1°/-8°
Flurries

40%

Your #1 weather forecast now available in HD.

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TWN incorporates MSC data

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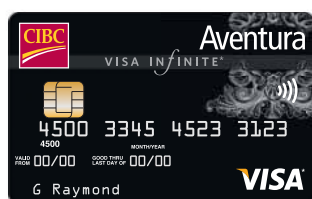
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